

City of Albuquerque

Water by Request Ordinance

§ 6-1-5-1 INTENT.

The public purpose of this ordinance is to:

- (A) Assist in reducing overall per capita water use in the city, thereby helping to ensure a sustainable supply of water;
- (B) Eliminate unnecessary use of water in restaurants by serving water to customers only when requested, thereby reducing water served and water used to wash glasses;
- (C) Educate water system customers and hospitality industry clientele about and eliminate the unnecessary use of water by reducing the frequency of washing of sheets, towels, and other linens; and
- (D) Encourage government facilities and businesses to eliminate waste and use water efficiently.

(Ord. 2-2001)

§ 6-1-5-2 SHORT TITLE.

This ordinance shall be known as the "Water Conservation Water by Request Ordinance."

(Ord. 2-2001)

§ 6-1-5-3 DEFINITIONS.

For the purpose of this article, the following definitions shall apply unless the context clearly indicates or requires a different meaning:

BUSINESS. Retail facility, office, shopping center or other facility in the commercial water billing class, other than multi-family or mobile home residential facilities.

GOVERNMENT FACILITY. Facility operated by the City of Albuquerque, Bernalillo County, State of New Mexico, United States, or other governmental entity.

LODGING ESTABLISHMENT. A motel, hotel, or bed and breakfast establishment which provides private rooms for overnight stay and provides towels and/or sheets and/or other linens.

RESTAURANT. A food service facility which serves meals to customers, including those food service facilities in lodging establishments and schools and drive-in food facilities, and excluding health and frail elderly care facilities.

(Ord. 2-2001)

§ 6-1-5-4 APPLICABILITY.

All sections of this article apply to all restaurants, lodging establishments, government facilities, and businesses within the city limits and/or served by the municipal utility. Compliance with the ordinance is a condition of service from the utility.

(Ord. 2-2001)

§ 6-1-5-5 DRINKING WATER SERVICE.

All restaurants shall provide drinking water only as specifically requested by the customer.

(Ord. 2-2001)

§ 6-1-5-6 LINEN WASHING SERVICE.

All lodging establishments shall offer customers the option of not changing sheets and towels in private rooms for stays of less than five days. Lodging establishments shall encourage this practice, at a minimum, through posting of signs in every room instructing customers how to avoid linen service for stays less than five days. Lodging establishments with less than ten rooms may encourage this practice through brochures or other general promotional materials rather than signs in each room.

(Ord. 2-2001)

§ 6-1-5-7 EDUCATING EMPLOYEES, CLIENTS, AND CUSTOMERS.

The city shall work cooperatively with government facilities and businesses to post signage informing and educating employees, clients, and customers about the need to and how to save water.

(Ord. 2-2001)

§ 6-1-5-8 ASSESSMENT OF FEES.

Any responsible party who violates the provisions of this ordinance shall be subject to progressively higher fees until the violation ceases. The schedule for assessment of fees is as follows.

First violation	\$20
Second violation	\$50
Third and additional violation	\$100

Assessment of fees for violations of this ordinance will be through city utility bills and placed on the responsible party's billing account. The responsible party may appeal fees for violation of this ordinance and the appeal process shall follow the process set forth in § 6-1-1-12(B) of the Water Conservation Landscaping and Water Waste Ordinance. Fees shall be assessed to the responsible party's billing account within 15 days following expiration of the appeal period or issuance of appeal findings and shall be listed as a separate line item on the utility bill. Responsible parties shall be notified of the fee through certified mail within 15 days of the violation. Fees must be paid within the normal payment period allowed by the city utility billing system. Fees shall be suspended pending the outcome of an appeal. Each day in which a violation occurs shall constitute a separate offense. The responsible party will be given seven days to comply with this ordinance before another fee may be assessed.

(Ord. 2-2001)