

In limited situations, Austin Water may grant a variance from the water restrictions ([City of Austin Code 6-4, Article 30](#)). All variances are issued on a case-by-case basis, and a request for a variance must be submitted using Austin Water's checklist and application. After an approved variance expires, applicants must follow the [current watering schedule](#).

Austin Water's **New Xeriscape Landscape Variance** is for a newly installed xeriscape landscape design that requires a special watering schedule.

**Xeriscape** is a style of landscape design to conserve water and energy that includes plants that at full growth will cover at least 50% of the new landscape's coverage area. To be eligible for this variance, plants must come from a list provided by Austin Water, require low or very low water use, and be identified as xeric.

## ELIGIBILITY

- **Applicant:**
  - o Must be a customer of Austin Water
  - o Must not [waste water](#)
    - No broken/missing sprinkler heads, leaking/broken pipes, or leaking faucet
    - No water running, flowing, or streaming into street, parking lot, or other surface
- **Landscape:**
  - o New landscape plants must:
    - Alter more than 500 adjoining square feet of an existing landscape,
    - Be installed at the time of construction of a residential or commercial property,
    - Be installed as part of a governmental capital improvement project, or
    - Be installed to stabilize an area disturbed by construction
  - o Xeric plants:
    - Must be selected from [Austin Water's approved plant list](#) or from the list of qualifying stabilization/erosion control plants found in the [City of Austin's Standard Specifications Manual Item #604S](#)
      - Austin Water may approve other plants if they will be low or very low water use

## CHECKLIST

- Meet all eligibility requirements above
- For new xeriscape landscape required for a certificate of occupancy:
  - Provide a variance notice at least one business day before the landscape is installed
- Submit the variance application and include:
  - List of approved plants** that will be installed and/or plants not on the approved list
  - Detailed site map**, including:
    - North arrow, street information, and building arrangement
    - Site map of new construction, capital improvement project, or area disturbed by construction (*if applicable*)

## NEW LANDSCAPE/XERISCAPE VARIANCE APPLICATION

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- Area of new landscaping altering more than 500 adjoining square feet of an existing landscape (*if applicable*)
- Controller's identification and locations (*if applicable*)
- Send application materials to:
  - Mail:** Austin Water Conservation, PO Box 1088, Austin, TX 78767
  - Email:** [waterusecompvar@austintexas.gov](mailto:waterusecompvar@austintexas.gov)
  - Fax:** 512-974-3504
- Follow the watering schedule after variance is approved:
  - Days 1-10 – water daily before 8:00 a.m. and after 7:00 p.m.
  - Days 11-40 – water twice per week before 8:00 a.m. and after 7:00 p.m.

# NEW LANDSCAPE/XERISCAPE VARIANCE APPLICATION

## APPLICANT INFORMATION

Austin Water Account #: \_\_\_\_\_ Name of Accountholder: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Applicant: \_\_\_\_\_

Business/Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Property Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
(if different)

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

## VARIANCE INFORMATION

Type of Variances:  New Construction  Capital Improvement Project  
 Stabilizing Soil  > 500 Square Feet of Existing Landscape

Date of Project Installation: \_\_\_\_\_

List of Approved Plants (*attach separate page, if needed*):

## VARIANCE AGREEMENT

I certify that all statements and representations contained in this application are true, correct, and complete. I have read and understand the variance eligibility. I have completed each of the required items on the checklist and submitted all required items. I understand that incomplete applications will not be processed and irrigation pursuant to this variance does not exempt me (*or my organization, if applicable*) from complying with Austin Code, Chapter 6-4, Water Conservation.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

### CITY OF AUSTIN USE ONLY

Variance:  Approved  Denied

Date Range – Daily Watering (Days 1-10):

Date Range – Twice Weekly Watering (Days 11-40):