

Regardless of how the new rate is designed, there is likely to be some opposition. An educational program explaining the need for the hike will help to minimize the negative response.³⁵

Regulation

If it is necessary to implement a program of regulation, specific regulations will have to be drafted to limit water use. Water limitation regulations are usually used to:

1. Restrict a specific water use;
2. Restrict the time during which specific uses are allowed;
3. Allow specific uses (such as pool filling) by permit only;
4. Restrict the quantity of water which can be used; and
5. Require the installation of low water using appliances only.

Table 7 lists the most commonly used regulations according to the conservation goal each has the most potential to achieve. A combination may be best suited depending on the specific situation in each service area. In some communities, regulations may not be allowed due to local laws. Regulations limiting specific uses may not be practical because they require enforcement, which may be impossible to implement. Other regulations, such as rationing, plumbing code changes and appliance retrofitting, may not be effective because of user and political opposition.

It is important that the use of stringent regulations, such as rationing and use bans, be reserved for high percentage reduction, short-term goals and for times of extreme emergency such as drought. Otherwise, user opposition may be substantial enough to reduce cooperation.