

## **Hosepipe Bans: Contact Local Water Boards For Advice**

With full hosepipe and sprinkler bans being imposed by a number of water companies in the South East, the Institute of Groundsmanship (IOG) is recommending that members contact their local water authorities to clarify the situation in their areas.

“Thames Water, for example, has said that the ban applies only to residential areas and to the watering of private gardens and car washing,” commented Geoff Webb, IOG chief executive.

“The Thames water spokesman we contacted said commercial premises were unaffected by the ban and members of the public were able to continue to use hosepipes to wash garden decking, driveways and patios, to avoid health and safety hazards.

“Of course, by adopting a responsible approach and liaising with their local water companies grounds professionals will determine the guidelines for use/non-use.”

The South East has had 18 months of below average rainfall, and from 3 April 2006 around 13 million people have had a restriction on water use. Full hosepipe and sprinkler bans have been put in place by:

- Southern Water (in the Sussex North, Sussex Coast, Sussex Hasting, Kent Thanet, Kent Medway and Isle of Wight water supply areas)
- South East Water
- Mid Kent Water
- Cholderton and District Water
- Sutton and East Surrey Water
- Thames Water
- Three Valleys Water
- Folkestone and Dover Water.

Visit [www.environment-agency.gov.uk](http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk) for more details.