

Stage 4 Outdoor Sprinkling Ban Implemented in Response to Drought

Effective immediately until further notice, all Regional District of Nanaimo (RDN) Water Service Areas are under Stage 4 watering restrictions. On June 29, the provincial government elevated eastern Vancouver Island to Provincial Drought Level 4 due to a significant shortfall in seasonal precipitation this past spring, winter and fall, and early above seasonal temperatures. As a result of these conditions, the Province is asking local water providers to implement increasingly stricter watering restrictions. Stage 4 restrictions help ensure the community's essential water needs for drinking water, hygiene and fire protection are met, that water flows for fish and aquatic habitats are maintained, and targeted water use reduction is achieved.

The region is experiencing early low-flow levels in rivers and streams throughout the region and below average groundwater levels in some regional aquifers. The continued warmer and drier-than-seasonal conditions forecasted by Environment and Climate Change Canada will likely further impact water levels into the summer. Note that water for new homes and businesses has been accounted for in development planning. This comprehensive watering ban aims to reduce the current pressure from non-essential water use on surface water and groundwater sources vulnerable to ongoing drought.

Stage 4 restricts the residential outdoor water use noted below and in the accompanying chart to achieve maximum water conservation:

- No lawn sprinkling of any kind, including for newly seeded and sodded lawns
- No washing of vehicles, RVs and boats
- No washing of driveways, sidewalks, parking lots and exterior building surfaces
- No filling of swimming pools, hot tubs and garden pond water features










Vegetable gardens and fruit trees are exempt from all watering restrictions, even Stage 4. Drip irrigation is permitted between 7 a.m. and 10 am or 7 p.m. and 10 p.m. Hand watering of gardens is permitted but must be done using a hand-held container or a hose equipped with a shutoff device. Commercial enterprises which require water use to facilitate normal business activities are exempt. Private wells are not subject to these watering restrictions, but conservation is encouraged as water is a shared resource.

Water system capacity and conditions vary across the region. Not all water providers will be moving to Stage 4 at this time. Please refer to the accompanying table for watering restrictions by location. A map of water service areas, including their current watering restrictions, can be viewed at rdn.bc.ca/watering-restriction-map. For tips on water conservation, visit teamwatersmart.ca.

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Watering Restriction Stage in effect July 5, 2023	Water Service Areas
<p style="text-align: center;">STAGE 4</p>	<p>Regional District of Nanaimo (9 small systems):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nanoose Bay Peninsula • River's Edge • French Creek/ Sandpiper • Surfside • San Pareil • Whiskey Creek • Westurne Heights • Melrose Terrace • Decourcey (Pylades) <p>District of Lantzville North Cedar Improvement District City of Parksville EPCOR French Creek Bowser Waterworks</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">STAGE 3</p> <p>Additional voluntary reductions on top of Stage 2</p> <p>Hand-watering, Drip & Micro Irrigation Exempt</p> <p>Vegetable and Food Gardens Exempt</p>	<p>Qualicum Bay Horne Lake Waterworks Deep Bay Improvement District City of Nanaimo</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">STAGE 2</p> <p>Even and Odd Day Watering – based on house number</p> <p>2-hour maximum between 7-10 a.m. or 7-10 p.m.</p> <p>Hand-watering, Drip & Micro Irrigation Exempt</p> <p>Vegetable and Food Gardens Exempt</p>	<p>---</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">STAGE 1</p> <p>Sprinkling permitted only between 7 p.m. - 7 a.m., on any day</p> <p>Hand-watering, Drip & Micro Irrigation Exempt</p> <p>Vegetable and Food Gardens Exempt</p>	<p>Town of Qualicum Beach</p>

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WATERING RESTRICTION STAGE	1	2	3	4
Frequency 	Any Day	Every Other Day: Even# Houses – Even# Days Odd# Houses – Odd# Days	 Voluntary Reductions on top of Stage 2 	SPRINKLING BAN: Lawn Watering NOT PERMITTED
Watering Times 	Between 7pm and 7am	Between 7-10am or 7-10pm for 2 hrs MAX		Between 7-10am or 7-10pm
Hand-watering, drip irrigation, micro irrigation 	ANYTIME	ANYTIME		NOT PERMITTED
Washing vehicles, boats, houses (siding) 	ANYTIME	ANYTIME		NOT PERMITTED
Filling fountains, pools, hot tubs 	ANYTIME	ANYTIME		NOT PERMITTED
New lawn permits 	Can apply for a permit	Can apply for a permit		NO PERMITS ISSUED
Pressure washing walkways, driveways, siding 	ANYTIME	ANYTIME		ONLY prior to application of paint, preservative, stucco, or sealant


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For more information, please contact:

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