

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 July 18, the provincial government elevated eastern Vancouver Island to Provincial Drought Level 4 due to 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 throughout the rest of the summer. 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, water flows for fish and aquatic habitats are maintained, and targeted water use reduction is achieved.

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. Water for new homes and businesses has been accounted for in development planning.

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 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 in Stage 4. Drip irrigation is permitted between 7 a.m. and 10 a.m. or 7 p.m. and 10 p.m. Hand watering of gardens is allowed but must be done using a hand-held container or a hose equipped with a shutoff device. Commercial enterprises that require water use for 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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Water Conservation Stages	Water Service Areas
<p style="text-align: center;">STAGE 4</p> <p>No sprinkling of any kind, including for newly seeded and sodded lawns</p> <p>No washing driveways, sidewalks, parking lots, and exterior building surfaces</p> <p>No filling of swimming pools, hot tubs, and garden pond water features</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>STAGE 3 – Mandatory Conservation Measures</p> <p>One day per week watering – Mondays or Thursdays based on house number *</p> <p>Hand-watering, drip and micro irrigation exempt vegetable and food gardens exempt</p> <p><i>* EPCOR service area watering days based on zones, please check website for local restriction details</i></p>	<p>EPCOR French Creek North Cedar Improvement District</p>
<p>STAGE 3 – Additional Conservation Actions</p> <p>In addition to Stage 2 requirements, residents are encouraged to reduce outdoor water use to defer a potential future comprehensive watering ban.</p>	<p>City of Parksville District of Lantzville Qualicum Bay Horne Lake Waterworks</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 and micro irrigation exempt vegetable and food gardens exempt</p>	<p>City of Nanaimo Bowser Waterworks</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 and micro irrigation exempt vegetable and food gardens exempt</p>	<p>Town of Qualicum Beach</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">NO RESTRICTIONS</p>	<p>Deep Bay Improvement District</p>



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WATER CONSERVATION LEVEL	1	2	3	4
EFFECTIVE DATES	Begins April 1	May 1–October 31	As required	
 Frequency	ANY DAY	Every other day: Even # houses = Even # days Odd # houses = Odd # days	One day per week: Even # houses = Thursdays Odd # houses = Mondays	SPRINKLING BAN: LAWN WATERING NOT PERMITTED
 Watering times	Between 7 pm - 7 am	Between 7–10 am OR 7–10 pm for 2 hrs MAX	Between 7–10 am OR 7–10 pm for 2 hrs MAX	
 Washing vehicles, boats, houses (siding)	ANYTIME	ANYTIME (on your watering day)	Between 7–10 am OR 7–10 pm on your watering day	Between 7–10 am OR 7–10 pm once per week on your Level 3 watering day
 Hand-watering, drip irrigation	ANYTIME	ANYTIME	VOLUNTARY RESTRICTIONS encouraging residents to reduce water use where they are able to	Between 7–10 am OR 7–10 pm
 Filling fountains, pools, hot tubs	ANYTIME	ANYTIME (on your watering day)		NOT PERMITTED
 Pressure washing walkways, driveways, siding	ANYTIME	ANYTIME (on your watering day)		ONLY prior to application of paint, preservative, stucco, or sealant
 New lawn permits	Can apply for a permit	Can apply for a permit		NO PERMITS ISSUED
Vegetable gardens and fruit trees are exempt from all watering restrictions, even in Level 4.				

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For more information, please contact:

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