

Stage 2 Outdoor Water Conservation Comes into Effect May 1

Effective May 1, 2026, outdoor water conservation measures are in place across much of eastern Vancouver Island in response to the heightened risk of drought. As of May 1, Stage 2 outdoor water conservation comes in effect for customers in all Regional District of Nanaimo (RDN) Water Service Areas, with exception of the Decourcey and Surfside Water Service Areas, which will remain at Stage 4 until further notice.

Under Stage 2, lawn sprinkling is restricted as follows:

- Even-numbered addresses may sprinkle only on even-numbered calendar days
- Odd-numbered addresses may sprinkle only on odd-numbered calendar days
- Sprinkling is permitted for a maximum of two hours per day, either between 7 and 10 a.m. or between 7 and 10 p.m.
- Vegetable gardens and drip irrigation systems are exempt from these restrictions

Stage 2 restrictions will remain in effect until further notice. Residents are encouraged to regularly check their specific water provider's website, as water system capacity and conditions vary across the region.

Early conservation is needed as eastern Vancouver Island entered the fall of 2025 under dry conditions, with several watersheds remaining vulnerable going into winter. While some areas of British Columbia saw modest drought improvement during the 2025-2026 winter, recovery on Vancouver Island was limited. Snowpack remained below average and among the lowest in the province, due in part to slightly warmer-than-normal winter temperatures and higher freezing levels, which reduced snow accumulation at key elevations. Below-average snowpack increases the risk of water shortages later in the year. Seasonal climate outlooks point to a greater likelihood of warmer-than-average temperatures and below-average precipitation through spring and summer 2026, raising concerns about early onset of drought conditions.

Proactive water conservation now helps reduce peak demand and supports:

- Essential household use
- Environmental flows and ecosystem health
- Agriculture and irrigation
- Fire protection and public safety

The RDN will be monitoring watering restrictions and working with residents to ensure compliance. Repeated or serious violations may result in enforcement action, including fines. To view the water service area map and current watering stages, visit rdn.bc.ca/watering-restriction-map. For water-saving tips and resources, visit teamwatersmart.ca.

Get Involved RDN!

Watering Conservation Stages	Water Service Areas
<p>STAGE 2 – in effect May 1, 2025</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</p> <p>Vegetable and Food Gardens Exempt</p>	<p>Regional District of Nanaimo Service Areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nanoose Bay Peninsula, • River’s Edge • French Creek/ Sandpiper • San Pareil • Whiskey Creek • Westurne Heights • Melrose Terrace <p>City of Nanaimo</p> <p>City of Parksville</p> <p>District of Lantzville</p> <p>EPCOR French Creek</p> <p>North Cedar Improvement District</p> <p>Bowser Waterworks</p>
<p>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 (in effect May 15)</p> <p>Deep Bay Improvement District</p>
<p>NO RESTRICTIONS</p>	<p>Qualicum Bay Horne Lake Waterworks</p>
<p>STAGE 4 – as required</p> <p>Sprinkling ban: lawn watering not permitted</p> <p>Hand watering only between 7-10 a.m. or 7-10 p.m. once per week on allocated watering day</p>	<p>Regional District of Nanaimo Service Areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decourcey (Pylades)** • Surfside ** <p>** see details at https://rdn.bc.ca/surfside-and-decourcey-watering-restrictions</p>

For media inquiries, please contact:

Rebecca Taylor
 Communication Coordinator
 Regional District of Nanaimo



250-713-2400



engagement@rdn.bc.ca

