

## **Outdoor Water Conservation Stage 3 Comes into Effect June 12**

On June 12, 2026, Stage 3 outdoor watering restrictions will come into effect for customers in all Regional District of Nanaimo (RDN) Water Service Areas except for Decourcey and Surfside Water Service Areas which will remain at Stage 4.

Under Stage 3, lawn sprinkling is restricted as follows:

- Limited to one day per week with odd-numbered houses on Mondays and even-numbered houses on Thursdays
- Watering for a maximum of two hours 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 3 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.

Elevating water conservation levels is necessary as water service providers are seeing high water use across the region during early-season dry conditions. Eastern Vancouver Island is at the Provincial Drought Framework's Drought Level 4 due to abnormally dry conditions. This spring has had below average rainfall combined with a below average snowpack, resulting in regional drought conditions. Water flow in the region's creeks and streams is low, and groundwater level conditions differ throughout the region.

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](https://rdn.bc.ca/watering-restriction-map). For water-saving tips and resources, visit [teamwatersmart.ca](https://teamwatersmart.ca).

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Water Conservation Levels*	Water Service Areas
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>STAGE 3</b></p> <p>One Day per Week Watering – Mondays or Thursdays based on house number</p> <p>Hand-watering, drip and micro irrigation exempt</p> <p>Vegetable and food gardens are exempt</p>	<p>Regional District of Nanaimo (9 small systems):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nanoose Bay Peninsula,</li> <li>• River’s Edge</li> <li>• French Creek/ Sandpiper</li> <li>• San Pareil</li> <li>• Whiskey Creek</li> <li>• Westurne Heights</li> <li>• Melrose Terrace</li> <li>• <i>Note: Decourcey (Pylades) and Surfside systems are in Stage 4</i></li> </ul> <p>City of Nanaimo</p> <p>City of Parksville</p> <p>District of Lantzville</p> <p>Bowser Waterworks</p> <p>Qualicum Bay Horne Lake Waterworks</p> <p>Little Qualicum Waterwork</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>STAGE 2</b></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 are exempt</p> <p>Vegetable and food gardens are exempt</p>	<p>EPCOR French Creek</p> <p>North Cedar Improvement District</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>STAGE 1</b></p> <p>Sprinkling permitted only between 7 p.m. - 7 a.m., on any day</p> <p>Hand-watering, drip and micro irrigation are exempt</p> <p>Vegetable and food gardens are exempt</p>	<p>Town of Qualicum Beach</p>

**\*Note:** Please check with your local water service provider, as water conservation levels may change.

**For media inquiries, please contact:**

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