

Stage 4 Water Conservation in Effect for RDN Water Service Areas

All Regional District of Nanaimo (RDN) Water Service Areas are under Stage 4 Water Conservation effective July 24, 2026, until further notice. Low flows in rivers and streams throughout the region and below-average groundwater levels in some regional aquifers are prompting this proactive move towards water conservation efforts. The 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. Stage 4 conservation helps 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. Stage 4 restricts the residential outdoor water use including:

- Use of sprinkler/irrigation to water lawn is prohibited.
- Watering flowers, shrubs, or ornamental trees is permitted only by hand-held container or by hose equipped with a shutoff device, and only between 7 a.m. and 10 a.m. or 7 p.m. and 10 p.m.
- 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. 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 and check with your local service provider for updates on their water conservation level. 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 Levels	Water Service Areas
STAGE 4 No sprinkling of any kind, including for newly seeded and sodded lawns No washing driveways, sidewalks, parking lots and exterior building surfaces No filling of swimming pools, hot tubs and garden pond water features	Regional District of Nanaimo (9 small systems): • Nanoose Bay Peninsula, • River's Edge • French Creek/ Sandpiper • Surfside • San Pareil • Whiskey Creek • Westurne Heights • Melrose Terrace • Decourcey (Pylades) District of Lantzville City of Parksville Little Qualicum Waterworks
STAGE 3 One Day per Week Watering – Mondays or Thursdays based on house number Hand-watering, Drip and Micro Irrigation Exempt Vegetable and Food Gardens Exempt	City of Nanaimo EPCOR French Creek Bowser Waterworks North Cedar Improvement District Qualicum Bay Horne Lake Waterworks Deep Bay Improvement District
STAGE 2 Even and Odd Day Watering – based on house number 2-hour maximum between 7-10 a.m. or 7-10 p.m. Hand-watering, Drip and Micro Irrigation Exempt Vegetable and Food Gardens Exempt	
STAGE 1 Sprinkling permitted only between 7 p.m. - 7 a.m., on any day Hand-watering, Drip and Micro Irrigation Exempt Vegetable and Food Gardens Exempt	Town of Qualicum Beach

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For media inquiries, please contact:

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