

Stage 3 Watering Restrictions in Effect Due to Extreme Heat Conditions

In response to the record-breaking heatwave and increased demand on local water resources, Stage 3 Watering Restrictions for eight of the nine Regional District of Nanaimo (RDN) Water Service Areas are in effect immediately and until further notice.

Under Stage 3 Watering Restrictions, residents are requested to further reduce non-essential outdoor water use, including curtailing lawn watering and refraining from washing cars or outdoor surfaces. If water demand does not decrease under voluntary measures, it will prompt a move to a Stage 4 comprehensive, outdoor watering ban to ensure essential water needs for household use, cooling measures for health and safety, fire protection and environmental flows can be met.

“Reducing discretionary outdoor water use is necessary to keep up with essential water demands during these extreme conditions. We appreciate the continued efforts of residents in taking these water conservation measures,” said Tyler Brown, RDN Chair. “We also want to ensure that residents know they can continue to use water to cool off, stay hydrated and stay safe.”

Permitted watering times are between 7- 10 a.m. or 7 -10 p.m. for no more than two hours total allocated per day. The same watering schedule as Stage 2 will be maintained, even days for even numbered houses and on odd days for odd numbered houses.

Some helpful ways to cut back on water use include:

- Reduce the lawn irrigation on your property by decreasing sprinkler run times, cutting back on the number of watering days and refraining from sprinkling certain lawn areas. Lawns naturally go dormant in the summer months and return with fall rains.
- Avoid washing vehicles or boats unnecessarily, unless for safety reasons.
- Sweep outdoor surfaces with a broom rather than using a hose or power washing.
- Retrofit leaking or inefficient irrigation systems.
- Add mulch/topsoil to aid in landscape water retention so you can decrease sprinkler run times.

For many water systems in the region, Stage 2 Watering Restrictions have been in effect since May 1, 2021, including for customers of eight of the nine RDN Water Service Areas. Ongoing Stage 4 Watering restrictions remain in place for the RDN’s Decourcey Water Service Area.

Please see the following table for current watering restrictions throughout the region. For a map that displays the water service areas including their current watering restrictions and tips on water conservation, visit rdn.bc.ca/watering-restriction-map and teamwatersmart.ca.


Get Involved RDN!


Water Service Area	Watering Restriction Stage on June 29, 2021
RDN Decourcey Water Service Area	STAGE 4 Sprinkling ban: lawn watering not permitted
RDN Water Service Areas (except Decourcey)	STAGE 3 Voluntary water use reductions on top of Stage 2
City of Parksville	
EPCOR French Creek	
North Cedar Improvement District	
City of Nanaimo	STAGE 2 Even and odd day watering - based on house number 2 hours maximum between 7-10 a.m. or 7-10 p.m. Hand-watering, drip and micro irrigation exempt Vegetable and food gardens exempt
District of Lantzville	
Bowser Waterworks District	
Town of Qualicum Beach	STAGE 1 Sprinkling permitted only between 7 p.m. -7 a.m. any day Hand-watering, drip and micro irrigation exempt Vegetable and food gardens exempt
Deep Bay Improvement District	NO RESTRICTIONS
Qualicum Bay Horne Lake Waterworks	

-30-

For more information, please contact:

Rebecca Taylor
 Communications Coordinator
 Regional District of Nanaimo

 250-390-6502

 rtaylor@rdn.bc.ca

Get Involved RDN!