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## **Stage 4 Water Restrictions Now in Effect During Ongoing Drought**

Today the Province of BC elevated Eastern Vancouver Island to Drought Level 5. This measure is based on streamflow and stream temperatures compared to what is considered normal for this time of year. Drought Level 5 indicates that adverse impacts to ecosystems and communities are likely and encourages the highest degree of water conservation. In response to and in support of this, the nine Regional District of Nanaimo (RDN) water service areas are implementing Stage 4 Watering Restrictions immediately and until further notice.

Under Stage 4 Watering Restrictions, lawn watering is banned, as are other outdoor water uses including power washing, car washing, and hot tub, pool or fountain filling. These comprehensive outdoor watering restrictions are required to ensure essential water needs for household use, fire protection, and environmental flows can be sustained given the persisting hydrological drought conditions on Eastern Vancouver Island.

Hand watering or drip irrigation is only permitted for vegetable or fruit gardens for a maximum of 2 hours per day between 7 - 10 a.m. or 7 - 10 p.m. RDN Bylaw and Water Operations staff will be patrolling and enforcing compliance with these restrictions through the issuance of fines. While private domestic wells in the RDN are not technically subject to water restrictions, all residents are asked to refrain from lawn watering and to limit outdoor water use at this time, as water is a shared resource.

Water conservation increases resilience to drought. The heightened watering restrictions are not indicative of a water supply shortage within our communities, rather they reflect a proactive approach to conserve essential water in the face of ongoing drought conditions. The restrictions are on the interconnected nature of our water systems with our neighbours and ecosystems and the uncertainty around the duration and potential impacts of the current drought.

The RDN thanks all residents for doing their part to conserve water.

Please see the table below for the watering restriction stage in each community. Some communities in the region will not currently be implementing a Stage 4 outdoor water use ban due to their demand being fully supported by available reservoir storage, i.e. City of Nanaimo and City of Parksville. For a map that displays the water service areas in the region including their current watering restriction stage and tips on water conservation, visit [rdn.bc.ca/watering-restriction-map](https://rdn.bc.ca/watering-restriction-map) and [teamwatersmart.ca](https://teamwatersmart.ca).

Water Service Area	Watering Restriction Stage on August 20, 2021
<p>All RDN Water Service Areas</p> <p>EPCOR French Creek</p> <p>North Cedar Improvement District</p>	<p><b>STAGE 4</b></p> <p>Sprinkling ban: Lawn watering and outdoor water use not permitted</p>
<p>City of Nanaimo</p> <p>District of Lantzville</p> <p>City of Parksville</p> <p>Qualicum Bay Horne Lake Waterworks</p>	<p><b>STAGE 3</b></p> <p>Voluntary water use reductions on top of Stage 2</p>
<p>Bowser Waterworks District</p>	<p><b>STAGE 2</b></p> <p>Even &amp; Odd Day Watering – based on house number</p> <p>2 hour maximum between 7-10AM or 7-10PM</p> <p>Hand-watering, Drip &amp; Micro Irrigation Exempt.</p>
<p>Town of Qualicum Beach</p>	<p><b>STAGE 1</b></p> <p>Sprinkling permitted only between 7PM-7AM, any day.</p> <p>Hand-watering, Drip &amp; Micro Irrigation Exempt.</p>
<p>Deep Bay Improvement District</p>	<p><b>NO MANDATORY RESTRICTIONS</b></p> <p>Conservation always encouraged to ensure water for fire protection</p>

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WATERING RESTRICTION STAGE		1	2	3	4
Frequency		Any Day	Every Other Day: Even# Houses – Even# Days Odd# Houses – Odd# Days	Voluntary Reductions on top of Stage 2  	SPRINKLING BAN: Lawn Watering NOT PERMITTED
Watering Times		Between 7pm and 7am	Between 7-10am or 7-10pm for 2 hrs MAX		Between 7-10am or 7-10pm
Hand-watering, drip irrigation, micro irrigation		ANYTIME	ANYTIME		NOT PERMITTED
Washing vehicles, boats, houses (siding)		ANYTIME	ANYTIME		NOT PERMITTED
Filling fountains, pools, hot tubs		ANYTIME	ANYTIME		NOT PERMITTED
New lawn permits		Can apply for a permit	Can apply for a permit		NO PERMITS ISSUED
Pressure washing walkways, driveways, siding		ANYTIME	ANYTIME		ONLY prior to application of paint, preservative, stucco, or sealant
Vegetable gardens and fruit trees are exempt from all watering restrictions, even Stage 4.					

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**For more information, please contact:**

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