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**RDN Transitions Back to Stage 2 Watering Restrictions Immediately, Stage 1 on October 1**

The Province of B.C. downgraded the Eastern Vancouver Island drought ranking to Level 2. This follows the weather shift to cooler temperatures and the return of precipitation that has helped streamflow levels recover after a sustained drought period. In response, Regional District of Nanaimo (RDN) water service areas are moving back to Stage 2 watering restrictions except the Decourcey Water Service Area immediately until Friday, October 1, 2021, when Stage 1 will come into effect as per the regional watering restrictions framework.

Under Stage 2 Watering Restrictions, sprinkling of lawns and gardens is permitted on even and odd days based on house number, for a total of 2 hours between 7 - 10 a.m. or 7 - 10 p.m. Car washing, fountain or hot tub filling, and outdoor surface washing may also resume. Hand-watering or vegetable garden watering may occur at any time, any day.

Stage 1, which will come into effect on Friday, October 1, 2021, permits sprinkling any day of the week only between 7 p.m. – 7 a.m. Unless otherwise stated, all watering restrictions will be lifted on Monday, November 1, 2021.

The RDN thanks residents for doing their part to conserve water during the hot, dry summer we experienced. Reducing non-essential water use helped retain water for our aquatic environments, our fire protection, and essential household use.

Please see the table below for the watering restriction stage in each community within the region, as different water systems implement different watering restriction stages based on various operational considerations.

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 September 23, 2021
<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>All RDN Water Service Areas (Except Decourcey)</p> <p>EPCOR French Creek</p> <p>North Cedar Improvement District</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 7-10 a.m. or 7-10 p.m.</p> <p>Hand-watering, Drip &amp; Micro Irrigation Exempt</p>
<p>Deep Bay Improvement District</p> <p>Town of Qualicum Beach</p>	<p><b>NO MANDATORY RESTRICTIONS</b></p> <p>Conservation always encouraged</p>

**Note:** As of October 1, 2021 Stage 1 will take effect for all Water Services Areas as per the regional watering restrictions framework, with the exception of RDN’s Decourcey Water Service Area which will remain at Stage 4 until further notice and the Town of Qualicum Beach and Deep Bay Improvement District where no restrictions are in place.

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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.				

**For more information, please contact:**

Lisa Moilanen  
Engagement Coordinator  
Regional District of Nanaimo

 250-390-6554  
 lmoilanen@rdn.bc.ca

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