

### Stage 3 Outdoor Watering Restrictions Come into Effect June 15

On June 15, 2023, Stage 3 outdoor watering restrictions will come into effect for customers in all Regional District of Nanaimo (RDN) Water Service Areas (except for Decourcey Water Service Area which will remain at Stage 4). Stage 3 restrictions maintain the same even and odd day watering framework as Stage 2, while requesting residents further reduce consumption to defer a comprehensive watering ban. The Province of BC currently lists Eastern Vancouver Island at Drought Level 3 “Adverse Impacts Possible” and is calling for voluntary reduction of water use.

The spring period has been unseasonably hot and dry, with an early and rapid snowmelt that is no longer contributing to surface water levels. Creeks and streams in the region are already experiencing low flow conditions and fire risk remains a concern going into the summer months without significant rainfall forecast. By proactively conserving groundwater and surface water, we will ensure water supply resiliency for essential household use, fire protection, stream flows for fish and irrigation purposes.

Stage 3 offers flexibility for residents to decide where and how they cut back on water use; however, it is critical that reductions are implemented. Here are some ways to take action in Stage 3:

- Reduce the lawn irrigation on your property by decreasing 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 (windows and headlights).
- Sweep outdoor surfaces such as driveways or decks with a broom rather than using a hose or power washing.
- Retrofit old, inefficient or leaking irrigation systems.
- Add mulch/topsoil to aid in landscape water retention so you can decrease sprinkler run times.

Vegetable garden watering and drip irrigation are exempt from restrictions.

Note that water system capacity and conditions vary across the region. Not all water providers will be moving to Stage 3 on June 15. Please refer to the accompanying table for watering restrictions by location and visit your respective water provider’s website for more details and current information. Our water is a shared resource, thank you for doing your part!

A map of water service areas, including their current watering restrictions, can be viewed at [rdn.bc.ca/watering-restriction-map](http://rdn.bc.ca/watering-restriction-map). For tips on water conservation, visit [teamwatersmart.ca](http://teamwatersmart.ca).

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Watering Restriction Stages	Water Service Areas
<p><b>STAGE 3 – in effect June 15, 2023</b></p> <p>Additional voluntary reductions on top of Stage 2</p> <p>Hand-watering, Drip &amp; Micro Irrigation Exempt</p> <p>Vegetable and Food Gardens 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>• Surfside</li> <li>• San Pareil</li> <li>• Whiskey Creek</li> <li>• Westurne Heights</li> <li>• Melrose Terrace</li> <li>• Decourcey (Pylades)**</li> </ul> <p>City of Parksville</p> <p>EPCOR French Creek</p> <p>North Cedar Improvement District</p> <p><i>**Decourcey system is in <b>Stage 4</b></i></p>
<p><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 &amp; Micro Irrigation Exempt</p> <p>Vegetable and Food Gardens Exempt</p>	<p>City of Nanaimo</p> <p>District of Lantzville</p> <p>Bowser Waterworks</p>
<p><b>STAGE 1</b></p> <p>Sprinkling permitted only between 7 p.m. - 7 a.m., on any day</p> <p>Hand-watering, Drip &amp; Micro Irrigation Exempt</p> <p>Vegetable and Food Gardens Exempt</p>	<p>Town of Qualicum Beach</p>
<p><b>NO RESTRICTIONS</b></p>	<p>Deep Bay Improvement District</p> <p>Qualicum Bay Horne Lake Waterworks</p>

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