



Stage 3 Now in Effect

2025 WATER USE RESTRICTIONS

Outdoor watering is permitted only between 7pm and 9am

Watering in the evening, nighttime or early morning reduces water wasted due to evaporation and reduces the peak water consumption by spreading out the use over a longer period of time.

STAGE 1 May 1 – Oct. 31	STAGE 2 Provincial Drought Code 3 ¹ Effective Date As Required	STAGE 3 Provincial Drought Code 4 ¹ Effective Date As Required	STAGE 4 Provincial Drought Code 5 ¹ Effective Date As Required
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Conventional Irrigation Systems and Sprinklers

Lawns, Vegetable Gardens, Fruit Trees, Ornamental Trees, Shrubs, Flower Gardens	2 hours / day Even Addresses – Wed & Sat Odd Addresses – Thu & Sun	2 hours / day Even Addresses – Wed Odd Addresses – Sun	Not Permitted	Not Permitted
New Lawns ²	2 hours / day Any Day Require Garden Irrigation Permit	1 hour / day Any Day Require Garden Irrigation Permit (Permits Must Be Obtained Prior to Stage 2)	1 hour / day Any Day Require Garden Irrigation Permit (Permits Must Be Obtained Prior to Stage 2)	Not Permitted

Hand Watering, Micro/Drip Irrigation³

Vegetable Gardens, Fruit Trees	4 hours / day	4 hours / day	2 hours / day	2 hours / day
Ornamental Trees, Shrubs, Flower Gardens	2 hours / day	2 hours / day	1 hour / day	1 hour / day
Lawns	2 hours / day	1 hour / day	Not Permitted	Not Permitted
New Lawns ²	2 hours / day	1 hour / day	1 hour / day Require Garden Irrigation Permit (Permits Must Be Obtained Prior to Stage 2)	Not Permitted

Other Outdoor Water Use

Filling Pools & Hot Tubs	No Restrictions	No Restrictions	Not Permitted ⁴	Not Permitted ⁴
Washing Vehicles or Boats	No Restrictions	No Restrictions	Permitted Under Certain Circumstances ⁵	Not Permitted
Washing Driveways, Houses, Sidewalks	No Restrictions	Permitted Under Certain Circumstances ⁵	Permitted Under Certain Circumstances ⁵	Not Permitted
Sport Fields ⁶	Reduced Watering	Reduced Watering, Conservation Measures	Reduced or Eliminated Watering	Reduced or Eliminated Watering
Private Wells, Agriculture ⁷	Regulated by Provincial Government (Not Supplied from Community Potable Water Systems)			

Notes:

- The various restriction Stages will be imposed in conjunction with the corresponding Provincial Drought Code. Jurisdictions may move to a given Stage ahead of the corresponding Provincial Drought Code based on state of the water system.
- Irrigation of new lawns must follow the restrictions for established lawns. If additional watering is required, a permit must be obtained at which point water restrictions for New Lawns must be followed.
- Micro/drip irrigation delivers water to the root zone of the plants and uses less than 90 L/hr (20 imperial gallons per hour) at less than 25 psi. Weeper hoses are considered micro/drip irrigation, and are permitted; soaker hoses are not permitted. A weeper hose emits water through very small pores in the rubber; there is no water spray stream emitted from the hose, resulting in less evaporation than a soaker hose. A soaker hose has holes that are large enough to emit water as a spray stream, resulting in more evaporation than a micro/drip irrigation system or a weeper hose.
- Pools filled prior to Stage 3 water use restrictions being implemented may be topped up to account for evaporation losses in order to avoid damage to pumps, etc. Municipal recreation facilities exempt.
- For residential homeowners, washing driveways, houses or sidewalks is only permitted during Stages 2 and 3 in preparation for applying paints, preservatives or for pouring concrete. Commercial enterprises which require water use to facilitate normal business activities are exempt from some Stage 2 and 3 water restrictions. These include nurseries, turf farms or tree farms, car wash / detailers, power washing companies, window washing companies, etc.
- School and Municipal playing fields are often sand-based and require regular watering. For that reason they are exempt from sprinkling regulations. Regardless, efforts are made to reduce water use and the irrigation timings are adjusted to reduce evaporation and avoid times of higher water consumption.
- If necessary the Provincial Government can require the curtailment of water use for private wells and for agricultural purposes.