

Electoral Area Water Conservation Bylaw

Frequently Asked Questions

Integrated Water Services



Capital Regional District | REVISED May 9, 2024

Effective May 2023, water conservation [Bylaw 4492](#) is in effect from May 1 to September 30. Please familiarize yourself with the new bylaw and [ticketing information](#). Some frequently asked questions regarding watering restrictions during all three stages are noted below.

Stage 1 Questions

When is lawn watering permitted?

Watering is only permitted once a week between the hours of 4-10 am or 7-10 pm

Can I water trees, shrubs, flowers and vegetables?

Yes - You may water trees, shrubs, flowers and vegetables **any day with a sprinkler between the hours of 4-10 am or 7-10 pm. If watering by hand** with a container, hose equipped with an automatic shut-off nozzle or a micro-drip irrigation system, **you may water on any day at any time.** Please note soaker hoses are considered a sprinkler.

Can I power wash sidewalks, driveways, parking lots, exterior windows or exterior building surfaces?

Yes - You may wash the above noted surfaces with a pressure washer or hose with an automatic shut off nozzle only. Avoid excess water run-off and water spreading to surrounding areas. Please be water wise and consider using a stiff broom to clean outdoor surfaces instead.

Can I wash my vehicle or boat?

Yes - A person may wash their vehicle or boat anytime using a hand-held container or a hose with an automatic shut-off nozzle. Additionally, you may wash your car at commercial dealerships or commercial car washes. Please wash your vehicle on the lawn, when possible, to minimize water waste and reduce runoff like oil, gas and metals from going down the storm drain and entering our waterways and marine environments. If washing your boat, please follow [Clean Drain Dry procedures](#).

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Stage 2 Questions

When is lawn watering permitted?

Watering is only permitted **once every two weeks between the hours of 4-10 am or 7-10 pm**

Can I water trees, shrubs, flowers and vegetables?

Yes - You may water trees, shrubs, flowers and vegetables **one day a week with a sprinkler between the hours of 4-10 am only**. If watering by hand with a container, hose equipped with an automatic shut-off nozzle or a micro-drip irrigation system, **you may water on any day at any time**. Please note soaker hoses are considered a sprinkler.

Can I power wash sidewalks, driveways, parking lots, exterior windows or exterior building surfaces?

No – Washing of the surfaces noted above is not permitted except as necessary for the application of paving or painting or if required by law to comply with health and safety regulations.

Can I wash my vehicle or boat?

Yes - A person may wash their vehicle or boat at a commercial car wash only.

Can I fill my ornamental fountain?

No – Filling of ornamental fountains is prohibited. If your fountain already has water in it and the fountain runs through re-circulated water that does not require the addition of new water, you may operate your fountain.

Can I leave my water turned on at my property if no one is there?

You **must** shut off your water connection if your property is uninhabited for more than 30 consecutive days.

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Stage 3 Questions

When is lawn watering permitted?

Lawn watering is **not permitted** on any day or time.

Can I water trees, shrubs, flowers and vegetables?

Yes - Limit watering of trees, shrubs and vegetables to **hand watering only** with a container, a hose with a shut-off valve, or a micro-irrigation system **one day per week between the hours of 4 -10 am only**.

Can I power wash sidewalks, driveways, parking lots, exterior windows or exterior building surfaces?

No - Washing of the surfaces noted above is not permitted except as necessary for the application of paving or painting or if required by law to comply with health and safety regulations.

Can I wash my vehicle or boat?

No - Washing of vehicles or boats by hand or at a commercial car wash are not permitted.

Can I leave my water connected at my property if no one is there?

You **must** shut off your water connection if your property is uninhabited for more than 30 consecutive days.

Can I fill my swimming pool, wading pool, hot tub or garden pond?

No - filling of any of the above noted items is prohibited.

Can I operate a water spray park?

No - Businesses are not permitted to run a spray park in any capacity.

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Does the water conservation bylaw apply to properties not connected to a CRD system?

No - The bylaw only applies to properties connected to CRD water systems. Bylaw 4492 does not apply to properties receiving water from private wells or private irrigation water source; federal and First Nation lands. Bylaw 4492 also does not apply to outdoor areas that may be required by law to be cleaned to comply with health or safety regulations.

What is the difference between the CRD water stages and the Province drought levels?

The CRD Water Conservation Bylaw has three stages specific to CRD water systems. The stages are based on the water demand, water storage levels, temperature, precipitation conditions and weather forecasts. The bylaw helps to ensure there is adequate supply for drinking water demands, fire protection, water quality and ecosystem health.

The provincial government has its own 0 to 5 drought level ranking system, for large watershed areas, with Drought Level 5 rated as the most severe. The drought levels are ranked based on snow accumulation, hot and dry weather or delay in rainfall. Level 1 means there is sufficient water to meet human and ecosystems needs. At Level 5, there is insufficient water to meet human and ecosystem needs and the Province has the authority to require reduced water use such as reducing the amount of water provincial water-license holders can take or temporarily suspend them.

Where can I get updates or more information on water stages?

The CRD will publish the latest updates to your local water system web page and post signage in your community to help you stay informed.

Beddis: www.crd.bc.ca/beddis-ws

Cedar Lane: www.crd.bc.ca/cedarlane-ws

Cedars of Tuam: www.crd.bc.ca/cot-ws

Fulford: www.crd.bc.ca/fulford-ws

Highland/Fernwood: www.crd.bc.ca/highfern-ws

Lyllall Harbour-Boot Cove: www.crd.bc.ca/lyllallboot-ws

Magic Lake Estates: www.crd.bc.ca/magiclake-ws

Port Renfrew: www.crd.bc.ca/portrenfrew-ws

Skana: www.crd.bc.ca/skana-ws

Sticks Allison: www.crd.bc.ca/sticks-ws

Surfside Park Estates: www.crd.bc.ca/surfside-ws

Wilderness Mountain: www.crd.bc.ca/wilderness-ws