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Waterfacts1

Straight talk about...

Stage 1 Water Conservation Bylaw



Capital Regional District (CRD) Water Services is responsible for the supply, treatment and delivery of bulk drinking water to its municipal (wholesale) customers and for the operation of the retail water distribution system in the Western Communities and Sooke.

The municipal wholesale customers are the City of Victoria, District of Saanich, District of Oak Bay, Township of Esquimalt, Saanich Peninsula Water Commission and the Juan de Fuca Water Distribution Commission.

As well, Water Services is responsible for water quality monitoring from source to individual customers throughout Greater Victoria and Sooke and for demand management programs.

The Sooke Reservoir, formed by the dam on the Sooke River, is our primary source of water. Under Federal and Provincial statutes, the amount of water available for municipal uses under water licenses must take into consideration the potential impacts on ecological values in the river downstream of the dam. A comprehensive agreement has been reached with key stakeholders on a water management strategy to share this precious resource. Therefore, as our source of water is limited, we must continue to manage our water resources wisely and to defer the need to develop new, potentially expensive sources of water. Water conservation is an integral part of our water management strategy.

Water Conservation Measures

Water use in the Capital Regional District (CRD) doubles in our summer months from the average winter usage. Most of this increase is for landscape irrigation. The water conservation bylaw is intended to manage this outdoor use.

Stage 1 comes into effect automatically every year unless more stringent water conservation measures are needed. Stages 2 and 3 are implemented according to the severity of the water shortage. Stage 2 is acute and Stage 3 is severe. Each level requires increasingly larger reductions in water use.

The Stage 1 water conservation bylaw is implemented every year from May 1 through September 30. Stage 1 aims for a 10% reduction in outdoor water use.

Bylaw Enforcement

Bylaw Enforcement Officers will enforce all levels of the water conservation bylaw. A person who contravenes the bylaw commits an offence under the Offence Act and is subject to a minimum fine of \$75.00 plus costs. Bylaw Enforcement Officers have the authority to enter at all reasonable times, any property that is subject to the bylaw to ascertain if the bylaw requirements are being violated. A person who wastes water at any time is subject to a minimum fine of \$75.00



The purpose of this fact sheet is to provide a summary of the **Stage 1 water conservation bylaw**.

For more information about the **Stage 1 bylaw** or for answers to your questions please visit our web site at www.crd.bc.ca/water

For water efficiency information and materials, contact the

CRD Demand Management Information Line at 250-474-9684



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Landscape Watering

- Lawn watering is only permitted twice a week within defined time periods under the following schedule:
 - **an even numbered address may water Wednesday and Saturday from 4:00 am to 10:00 am and from 7:00 pm to 10:00 pm.**
 - **an odd numbered address may water Thursday and Sunday from 4:00 am to 10:00 am and from 7:00 pm to 10:00 pm.**
- Established trees, shrubs, vegetable and flower gardens may be watered by hand using a hose with a shut-off device or with a hand-held container, or a micro/drip irrigation system, on any day at any time.
- Established trees, shrubs, vegetable and flower gardens may be watered with a sprinkler on any day, but only during the hours of 4:00 am to 10:00 am and 7:00 pm to 10:00 pm.
- A person who has installed a new lawn, either newly seeded or new sod, may apply to the Capital Regional District Water Services for a Permit, which will allow the new lawn to be sprinkled with water outside of permitted days, but within restricted hours (Seed 49 days, Sod 21 days). **The permit shall be conspicuously displayed at the property which it was issued. Permits are not issued for top-seeding, over-seeding or topdressing.**

Other Outdoor Uses

- Residential swimming pools and wading pools or hot tubs may be filled at any time.
- Vehicles may be washed with water using a hand-held container or hose equipped with a shut-off nozzle or at a car dealership or commercial car washes.

General Guidelines

- No person shall damage or allow the deterioration of any appliance that will result in a waste of water.
- The water conservation bylaw does not apply to water from private wells or private irrigation water sources, however facilities that have such sources are encouraged to post signs indicating their water source.
- The water conservation bylaw does not apply to outdoor areas that may be required by law to be cleaned so as to comply with health or safety regulations.

Exceptions to Stage 1 Bylaw

- An owner or occupier of property, who, by reason of advanced age or physical incapacity, is unable to water their property within the restricted days and times, may water their property on any two days during Stage 1, for a maximum of nine hours per day.
- Nurseries, farms, turf farms and tree farms are exempt.
- Public authorities may water lawns on any day, but no more than two days per week.

Please contact CRD Demand Management at 250-474-9684 for further information. A copy of the bylaw is available on our website, www.crd.bc.ca/water.