

# Reducing Morning Water Demand

How You Can Help

## Information Sheet



Capital Regional District | April 2024

### Help Protect Our Water!

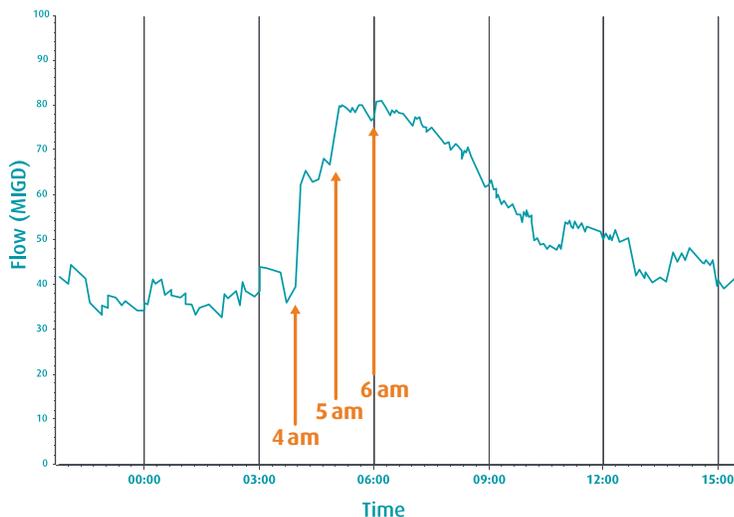
Thank you for following the Regional Supply Water Conservation Bylaw lawn watering schedules. Now we need your help! Irrigation systems that start at **4 am** are causing problems for the regions water supply infrastructure. Making a few simple changes to irrigation start times throughout the region can help the Capital Regional District (CRD) reduce this issue.

### What is the Problem?

In recent summers, the CRD water supply infrastructure has experienced challenges due to high, sudden demands because of region-wide irrigation system programs that all start at the same time. Particularly at **4 am, 5 am, and 6 am** on residential lawn watering days, water demand can double with instantaneous increases that fall on the hour.

This effect is dramatic in the summer when indoor and outdoor morning water demands overlap and put excessive pressure on the water supply infrastructure.

High and sudden demands for water impact the system's ability to maintain adequate flow, pressure, and high water quality standards.



This graph shows the water flow on a summer day.

At **4 am** the demand for water almost doubles, with sudden increases at the start of the following two hours.

### What's the Plan?

To help alleviate this issue, the CRD added a new lawn watering time (**12:01 am-10 am**) on residential watering days to Water Conservation Bylaw No. 4099 for **timed irrigation systems only**. This extra time gives room for those with automatic/timed irrigation systems to avoid the hours of peak demand and reduce stress on the distribution system.



To help reduce instantaneous demand for water, use the new overnight lawn watering schedule and program your irrigation system to start off the hour. Pick an irregular time, close to when you want your watering to begin, like 12:43 am instead of 1:00 am or 2:22 am instead of 2:00 am.



# How Can You Help?

## Switch to the New Watering Schedule

Does your home or business have an automatic irrigation system? Switch to the new watering schedule for timed irrigation systems. The water supply infrastructure needs more water to flow between 12 am and 4 am. If possible, please program irrigation to start during this time window.

- Having trouble switching your timer? Check out your system’s manufacturer website for how-to’s!
- Still having trouble? Send us an email at [waterwise@crd.bc.ca](mailto:waterwise@crd.bc.ca) and we can help you out.

## Stagger your Irrigation Start Times

Stagger your irrigation system start time off the top of the hour to reduce the instantaneous demand. Pick a random time like 2:23 am, 1:41 am, 3:12 am.

## Practice Waterwise Habits for Lawns and Gardens

- Gold is the new green! Let your lawn go golden this summer, it will bounce back to green in the fall.
- Or keep your lawn green with only one inch of water a week, including rain.
- Water in short bursts to let water seep into the soil, promoting strong roots.
- Garden with native plants. They require little to no watering and support biodiversity.
- If you can, water flowers, veggies, trees and shrubs on non-lawn watering days. The watering schedule days only apply to lawns!

## Don’t Have a Greenspace? You Can Still Help!

Refrain from using large amounts of water before 10 am. Strive for a 5-minute shower and delay starting your dishwasher and washing machine until the evening or during the day.

**NEW!**

### Regional Water Conservation Bylaw Watering Schedule

Lawn Watering: Residential, Commercial, or Institutional Lawn Watering	Odd Addresses	Thursday & Sunday	Watering by Any Method 4 am to 10 am & 7 pm to 10 pm	<b>NEW</b> Automatic Irrigation 12:01 am to 10 am & 7 pm to 10 pm
	Even Addresses	Wednesday & Saturday	Watering by Any Method 4 am to 10 am & 7 pm to 10 pm	<b>NEW</b> Automatic Irrigation 12:01 am to 10 am & 7 pm to 10 pm
Established Trees, Shrubs, Flowers and Vegetable Gardens	Sprinklers	ANY DAY	4 am to 10 am & 7 pm to 10 pm	
	Hand Watering and Micro/Drip Irrigation	ANY DAY	ANY TIME	
Public, Institutional or Community Playing Fields		<b>NEW</b> Any day except Wednesday	1 am to 10 am or 7 pm to 10 pm	

Looking for all the watering restrictions? Check out our website!

Looking for more information about conserving water outside and inside the home?

Learn more waterwise tips at: [www.crd.bc.ca/water](http://www.crd.bc.ca/water)

**Capital Regional District**  
Environmental Protection  
625 Fisgard Street  
Victoria, BC V8V 1R7