

2025 OUTDOOR WATER USE RESTRICTIONS

[as amended for Cowichan Bay Waterworks District from the Regional Roundtable Water Restrictions for water systems across the Cowichan Valley] By-Law 363

Outdoor watering, when permitted, may occur only between 7 pm in the evening and 9 am the next morning.

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	STAGE 2	STAGE 3	STAGE 4
	May 1 – Oct. 31	Provincial Drought Code 3 ¹ Effective Date as Required	Provincial Drought Code 4 ¹ Effective Date as Required	Effective Date as Required

Conventional Irrigation Systems and Sprink

Lawn, 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
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Hand Watering, Micro/Drip Irrigation ³

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 hours / day	1 hours / day
Lawns	2 hours / day	1 hours / day	Not Permitted	Not Permitted

New lawn watering permits will no longer be allowed ²

Other Outdoor Water Use

Filling Pools & Hot Tubs ⁴	Not Permitted			
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	Not Permitted	Not Permitted
Sports 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)			

- The various restrictions 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.
- 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.
- The filling of swimming pools is not permitted in Cowichan Bay Waterworks District [Bylaw #230]
- For residential properties, washing driveways, houses or sidewalks is only permitted up to Stage 3. Residential washing (i.e. not at a car wash facility which reuses water) of vehicles and boats is only permitted up to Stage 3 in preparation of applying paints or preservatives. 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.