

Electoral Area Water Conservation Bylaw

Frequently Asked Questions

Infrastructure & Water Services



Capital Regional District | REVISED April 16, 2025

Effective April 11, 2025, a fourth stage of water conservation has been added to Bylaw 4492. [Bylaw 4492](#) is in effect from May 1 to September 30, unless otherwise authorized by the General Manager of Infrastructure & Water Services. Please familiarize yourself with the new updates to the bylaw and [ticketing information](#). Some frequently asked questions regarding watering restrictions during all four 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, fruit and vegetable gardens?

Yes - You may water trees, shrubs, flowers and fruit and vegetable gardens **one day a week 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.

Note: Watering any source of food production with a sprinkler one day per week between the hours of 4-10 AM is permitted. Hand watering is permitted any day and time.

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.

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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](#).

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, fruit and vegetable gardens?

Yes - You may water trees, shrubs, flowers and fruit and vegetable gardens **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.

Note: Watering any source of food production with a sprinkler one day per week between the hours of 4-10 AM is permitted. Hand watering is permitted any day and time.

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. Hand washing is not permitted.

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.

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

No - You **must** shut off your water connection if your property is uninhabited for more than 30 consecutive days.

Stage 3 Questions

When is lawn watering permitted?

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

Can I water trees, shrubs, flowers, fruit and vegetable gardens?

Yes - Hand watering between the hours of 4:00-10:00 am one day a week is permitted. Hand watering must be done with a container, hose equipped with an automatic shut-off nozzle or a micro-drip irrigation system.

Note: Sprinkler watering is not permitted during Stage 3. 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. Hand washing is 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.

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Can I operate a water spray park?

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

Stage 4 Questions

When is lawn watering permitted?

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

Can I water trees, shrubs, flowers, fruit and vegetable gardens?

No – any outdoor water use is strictly prohibited.

NOTE: The CRD does not regulate the use of water not supplied by the CRD. Residents **are** permitted to water trees, shrubs, fruit and vegetable gardens with any water **not** supplied by the CRD such as rainwater captured in water barrels or well water. Additionally, greywater or recycled water can also be used to water trees, shrubs, flowers, fruit and vegetable gardens.

What additional water restrictions apply to Stage 4?

If Stage 4 water restrictions are enacted for your water system, additional measures of **indoor water use restrictions** will apply to all residential properties. During Stage 4, indoor use of **water is restricted to drinking, food preparation and sanitation purposes only**. These extreme measures are required because the water system is experiencing critically low levels of water and the need to truck in water to the system to meet basic water needs is extremely likely.

General Information

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.

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What is the difference between electoral area stages of water conservation and Provincial drought levels?

CRD Water Conservation Bylaw 4492 has four stages specific to electoral area water systems. The stages are based on the water demand, water storage levels, temperature, precipitation conditions and weather forecasts for each system. 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 electoral area water stages?

The CRD will publish the latest updates to your local water system web page and posts signage in your community to help you stay informed. Additionally for **Stage 4 restrictions** the CRD will issue a public service announcement via its website and will also issue an alert through its public alert notification system (PANS). **PANS is an opt in notification system and residents must sign up if they wish to receive email or text notifications.** Residents can sign up for PANS notifications at www.crd.ca/pans

Beddis: www.crd.ca/beddis-ws

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

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

Fulford: www.crd.ca/fulford-ws

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

Lyall Harbour-Boot Cove: www.crd.ca/lyallboot-ws

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

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

Skana: www.crd.ca/skana-ws

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

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

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