

From: "Mochrie, Paul" <Paul.Mochrie@vancouver.ca>
To: "Direct to Mayor and Council - DL"
Date: 4/20/2023 10:26:46 AM
Subject: Upcoming information bulletin on watering restrictions (April 20, 2023)

Dear Mayor and Council,

I am writing to inform you that the City will be issuing the below information bulletin today, announcing the start of watering restrictions on May 1, 2023 for all Vancouver homes and businesses. These seasonal regulations remain in effect until October 15 with the aim of conserving water during the drier months of summer. Regional water use almost doubles in the summer due to lawn and garden watering. Last year, watering restrictions were enhanced across Metro Vancouver due to more unpredictable weather patterns from climate change.

The media release kicks off an awareness campaign which will run until fall on the City's digital channels for Vancouver's top five language groups with a focus on resident and business responsibilities under the bylaw. In addition, the City will be placing public education ads across streaming radio, social media and ethnic radio complemented by posters in our civic facilities and emails to the City's stakeholder lists, including seniors.

We invite you to share this content on social media throughout the summer as you see fit.

Best,
Paul

Paul Mochrie (he/him)
City Manager
City of Vancouver
paul.mochrie@vancouver.ca



The City of Vancouver acknowledges that it is situated on the unceded traditional territories of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and səliwətał (Tseil-Waututh) Nations.

City of Vancouver
Information bulletin
April 20, 2023

Watering restrictions start May 1

Starting on May 1, seasonal regulations go into effect limiting lawn watering to one day per week for Vancouver homes and businesses. These watering restrictions remain in place until October 15 and help conserve drinking water during our hotter, drier months. Watering outside these times could result in a \$250 fine.

Even with watering restrictions, regional water use almost doubles in the summer due to lawn and garden watering. Last year, watering restrictions were enhanced across Metro Vancouver due to more unpredictable weather patterns and snow melt from climate change, and to secure ongoing supply of the region's drinking water. Vancouver has strong outreach and enforcement programs in place to support reduced use of drinking water across the region which peaks during summer.

Permitted watering times

Lawns in Vancouver generally need only one inch of water for one hour each week, including rainfall, to stay healthy and green. Lawns can also go 'golden' if not watered as they enter a dormant state and return lush in the fall during rain. Residents can check their permitted watering through the [Van311 app](#) or [online](#).

Stage 1 Residential lawn watering allowed:

- ❑ Even-numbered addresses: Saturdays — automatic watering between 5:00 am and 7:00 am, and manual watering between 6:00 am and 9:00 am.
- ❑ Odd-numbered addresses: Sundays — automatic watering between 5:00 am and 7:00 am, and manual watering between 6:00 am and 9:00 am.
- ❑ Trees, shrubs, and flowers can be watered with a sprinkler any day between 5:00 am and 9:00 am, or any time by hand or using drip irrigation.

Stage 1 Non-residential lawn watering allowed:

- ❑ Even-numbered addresses: Mondays — automatic watering between 4:00 am and 6:00 am, and manual watering between 6:00 am and 9:00 am.
- ❑ Odd-numbered addresses: Tuesdays — automatic watering between 4:00 am and 6:00 am, and manual watering between 6:00 am and 9:00 am.
- ❑ Trees, shrubs, and flowers can be watered with a sprinkler any day between 4:00 am and 9:00 am, or any time by hand or using drip irrigation.

Background

Watering restrictions are enacted through Vancouver's Drinking Water Conservation By-law #12086. These restrictions help ensure there is enough treated drinking water for essential tasks like cooking, cleaning and drinking during the dry summer months.

Our water system was built to work with annual patterns of rain and snow in our climate, but our climate is changing and our need for water is growing. With summer demand for drinking water increasing, and fewer rainy days, the region is becoming more susceptible to droughts and less available drinking water each year.

[Learn how you can reduce your water consumption.](#)

Media contact:

Civic Engagement and Communications
media@vancouver.ca