

From: "Mochrie, Paul" <Paul.Mochrie@vancouver.ca>

To: "Direct to Mayor and Council"

Date: 4/25/2025 10:57:57 AM

Subject: Upcoming information bulletin: Watering restrictions begin May 1 (April 25, 2025)

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Dear Mayor and Council,

I am writing to inform you that the City will be issuing the below information bulletin today, Friday, April 25, regarding annual lawn watering restrictions beginning on May 1. This release is going out in alignment with a paid ad campaign reminding residents of the restrictions.

Please keep this information bulletin embargoed until it goes live from the City media email account.

Maria will reply to this email with the relevant Vancouver.ca link and social media links, once these are live.

Best,

Paul

**Paul Mochrie** (he/him)

City Manager

City of Vancouver

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

**City of Vancouver**  
**Information bulletin**  
**April 25, 2025**

## Watering restrictions begin May 1

Starting on May 1, 2025 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, 2025 and help conserve drinking water during our hotter, drier months. Watering outside these times could result in a \$250 fine. Metro Vancouver sets the rules around watering restrictions and the City enforces these rules through [its bylaw](#).

### 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. Brown lawns will enter a dormant state and return lush in the fall during rain. Residents can check their permitted watering times through the [Van311 app](#) or [online](#).

#### Stage 1 Residential lawn watering allowed:

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

#### Stage 1 Non-residential lawn watering allowed:

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

Our drinking water reservoirs, which are managed by Metro Vancouver, are at normal seasonal levels for April. However, should the region experience above average temperatures, with little rainfall this spring, as we have in previous years, there may be less opportunity for those reservoirs to be replenished by snow melt. At last check, mid-April snowpack levels are at 82 per cent of the historical average.

Summer water demand is primarily driven by lawn watering and outdoor uses. Abiding by watering restrictions is the best way for residents to help conserve drinking water and avoid escalation to Stage 2, which includes an outright ban on lawn watering.

Vancouver has strong outreach and enforcement programs in place to support reduced use of drinking water across the region which peaks during summer. Residents who witness watering

restriction violations can report [online](#), via the [Van311 app](#) or by calling 3-1-1.

## **Background**

Watering restrictions are enacted through [Vancouver's Drinking Water Conservation By-Law](#). 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 on average fewer rainy days, the region is becoming more susceptible to droughts and less available drinking water each year.

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### **Media contact:**

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