

News Release



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 30, 2026

Stage 1 Water Restrictions Effective May 1, 2026

COWICHAN VALLEY, BC – Each year on May 1, Cowichan Valley Regional District (CVRD) and municipal water systems and participating partners will collectively implement Stage 1 water restrictions in an effort to conserve water use on residential properties and ensure aquifers and lakes can withstand the increasingly dry summers.

In Stage 1 sprinkling can occur 2 hours maximum, 2 days per week between the hours of 7 p.m. and 9 a.m. Hand-watering, micro/drip irrigation subject to daily maximum for food or ornamental gardens is allowed.

“We ask all residents in our region to do their best to conserve water when possible and to follow the water use restrictions for their area,” said Jeff Moore, Manager of Environmental Services for the Cowichan Valley Regional District. “As our snowpack levels are very low, continued dry weather could strain many of our water systems in the region. We want to ensure residents are aware of the potential need to raise restriction levels even earlier than what we’ve done collectively in recent years.”

Local governments and water purveyors across the Cowichan region continue to collaborate on water restrictions to ensure they balance the needs of residents for household use, fire protection and irrigation with those of the watersheds, in recognition of the extreme drought conditions experienced in recent summers.

Water restrictions apply to all CVRD water systems, and City of Duncan, Municipality of North Cowichan, Cowichan Tribes, Town of Ladysmith, Town of Lake Cowichan, Cowichan Bay Waterworks, and Diamond Improvement District. Residents of other improvement districts and private water systems along with private well owners in the region are encouraged to follow regional water restrictions.

Visit the [Cowichan Adapts](https://cowichanadapts.ca/) website to learn more about water conservation, what is allowed during water restrictions, including a [Water Restrictions Map](#) where you can type in your address to find the current stage of restrictions on each water system in the region: <https://cowichanadapts.ca/>.

- 30 -

For more information, please contact:
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WATER USE RESTRICTIONS



DIAMOND
IMPROVEMENT
DISTRICT



2026 WATER USE RESTRICTIONS

Outdoor watering is permitted on your designated day as per the table, except between 9 AM and 7 PM.

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 May 1 – Oct. 31	STAGE 2 Effective Date As Required	STAGE 3 Effective Date As Required	STAGE 4 Effective Date As Required
Conventional Irrigation Systems & Sprinklers				
Lawns, 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
New Lawns ²	2 hours / day Any Day Require Garden Irrigation Permit	1 hour / day Any Day Require Garden Irrigation Permit (Permits Must Be Obtained Prior to Stage 2)	1 hour / day Any Day Require Garden Irrigation Permit (Permits Must Be Obtained Prior to Stage 2)	Not Permitted
Hand Watering, Micro/Drip Irrigation				
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 hour / day	1 hour / day
Lawns	2 hours / day	1 hour / day	Not Permitted	Not Permitted
New Lawns ²	2 hours / day	1 hour / day	1 hour / day Require Garden Irrigation Permit (Permits Must Be Obtained Prior to Stage 2)	Not Permitted
Other Outdoor Water Use				
Filling Pools & Hot Tubs	No Restrictions	No Restrictions	Not Permitted ⁴	Not Permitted ⁴
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 ⁵	Permitted Under Certain Circumstances ⁵	Not Permitted
Sport 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)			



Scan to
view map of
water
restrictions
online!

Scan QR code or visit cowichanadapts.ca for more details on numbered notations.