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# Water Sprinkling Regulation



The recent heavy rains have restored Metro Vancouver's reservoirs to acceptable water levels, and therefore the region will return to the stage one of water use restrictions from now to . Lawn sprinkling is allowed 3 times a week. Here is a glance of water restrictions in different stages: [Water Shortage Response Plan](#)

## Lawn Sprinkling Schedule in Stage 1

Residential Addresses from 4 a.m. to 9 a.m.

- Even numbered addresses: Monday, Wednesday, and Saturday
- Odd numbered addresses: Tuesday, Thursday and Sunday

## Non-residential Addresses

- Even numbered addresses: Monday, Wednesday from 1 am - 6 am, Friday 4 am and 9 am
- Odd numbered addresses: Tuesday, Thursday from 1 am. - 6 am, Friday 4 am and 9 am

## Please note

- Multi unit developments, such as apartments and townhouses, are permitted to sprinkle according to the development address, not the individual unit numbers.
- When hosing or pressure washing outdoor surfaces, or washing boats or motor vehicles, water hoses must be equipped with an automatic shut-off device.
- New sod or seeded lawns may be watered more frequent subject to a special permit.
- Any watering of lawn, either by sprinkler, or by hand using any device connected to a hose, outside of the restriction hours is prohibited.

## Helpful lawn care tips

- Lawns mainly do not require watering of more than 2.5 cm of water per week (equivalent to the depth of a tuna can) which can be achieved by sprinkling once a week;
- Water early in the morning to reduce evaporation;
- Leave grass clippings on your lawn; they reduce evaporation and the need to water.
- Get some more [Water Saving Tips](#) here.

## Reporting a water sprinkling violation

Report any Active water sprinkling violations to the By-law Call Centre at 604-591-4370. To report past violations or request for information, please call Engineering Department at 604-591-4340 or email at [EngWebmail@surrey.ca](mailto:EngWebmail@surrey.ca). Any complaints received, or observed violations, may result in fines imposed under Surrey Bylaw [No. 12508, the Bylaw Contravention Fines](#).

## History of Lawn Sprinkling Regulations

In the Winter and Spring of 1992, low rainfall and snow pack significantly reduced water levels within the Greater Vancouver Regional District's (GVRD's) 3 main reservoirs. In addition, during the summer months, unusually warm weather resulted in a much higher water consumption rate, further lowering water levels. This resulted in a solution requiring a 10-week ban on all lawn and garden sprinkling.

In the summer of 1993, the [Greater Vancouver Water District's \(GVWD\)](#) <sup>GP</sup> member municipalities imposed regular twice weekly lawn sprinkling regulations. Since 2011, new lawn sprinkling regulations have been imposed in our region each summer between June 1 and September 30. These regulations allows people water 3 times a week, keep the rate of water consumption evenly distributed, and lower the risk of reservoir levels being depleted too quickly.

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