



CATEGORY 5.0 – Engineering & Development	COUNCIL POLICY OUTDOOR WATERING CONSERVATION POLICY Contact Department: Engineering & Development
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Policy Goal

To improve water conservation and reduce peak water demands during the summer months.

Policy Statement

The City of Merritt has adopted a Water Conservation Strategy which sets out a long-term plan for future water conservation efforts within the City of Merritt. The Outdoor Watering Conservation policy is a part of the overall strategy to reduce peak water demands during the summer months and authorizes staff to adjust watering restrictions in accordance with the BC Drought Response Plan.

Policy Background

Merritt’s climate and typically hot, dry summers result in considerable water usage for gardening, watering lawns, etc. It is the intent of the Outdoor Watering Conservation policy to help reduce the draw on Merritt’s water supply and heighten public awareness of overall water usage.

Procedure

Water stewardship is the responsibility of all residents, and the City of Merritt’s Outdoor Water Conservation policy shall be in effect for all users of the City’s water system.

Residents will be encouraged to practice water conservation through a broad educational program. The City may implement more extensive water use restrictions as required.

Anyone watering contrary to the regulations may be fined in accordance with City bylaws. The City may suspend, regulate or stop the supply of water to any of its Customers for the use of sprinkling or irrigation of lawns, gardens or fields or for any other use, whenever in the opinion of the Public Works Manager public interest may require it.

Notices of changes to watering restrictions will be advertised on the City webpage, in the newspaper, on the radio, and by any other means of communication deemed appropriate.

Exemptions

Upon application, the City of Merritt may grant exemptions to watering restrictions as long as the Drought Level for both the Nicola and Coldwater basin is 3 or lower. In general, exemptions for new lawns or lawn restoration will be limited to one month of daily watering between the hours of 12-2 am, 6-8 am, or 7-9 pm.



Table 1.1 – THREE days per week regulations – Level 1

Residential lawn watering regulations are as follows:		
House number	With a manual sprinkler	With an automatic irrigation system
	6 am – 8 am or 7 pm – 9 pm	12 am – 2 am
Even	Monday, Wednesday, Friday	
Odd	Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday	
Please note: Mobile homes in mobile home parks should water according to unit number.		

Table 1.2 – TWO days per week regulations – Level 2

Residential lawn watering regulations are as follows:		
House number	With a manual sprinkler	With an automatic irrigation system
	6 am – 8 am or 7 pm – 9 pm	12 am – 2 am
Even	Wednesday, Friday	
Odd	Tuesday, Saturday	
Please note: Mobile homes in mobile home parks should water according to unit number.		

Table 1.3 – ONE day per week regulations – Level 3

Residential lawn watering regulations are as follows:		
House number	With a manual sprinkler	With an automatic irrigation system
	6 am – 8 am or 7 pm – 9 pm	12 am – 2 am
Even	Friday	
Odd	Tuesday	
Please note: Mobile homes in mobile home parks should water according to unit number.		



Table 2.0

Other residential water uses:

Type of use	Level 0	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5
Lawns	Anytime	As per Table 1.1 3 days per week	As per Table 1.1 3 days per week	As per Table 1.2 2 days per week	As per Table 1.3 1 day per week	Not permitted
Vegetable Gardens, flowers, trees, shrubs, planters (excluding lawns)	Anytime	Anytime using a hose with an auto shut-off nozzle, hand watering or via drip irrigation system. AND As per Table 1.1 3 days per week	Anytime using a hose with an auto shut-off nozzle, hand watering or via drip irrigation system. AND As per Table 1.1 3 days per week	Anytime using a hose with an auto shut-off nozzle, hand watering or via drip irrigation system. AND As per Table 1.2 2 days per week	Anytime using a hose with an auto shut-off nozzle, hand watering or via drip irrigation system. AND As per Table 1.2 2 days per week	Vegetable Garden: Anytime using a hose with an auto shut-off nozzle, hand watering or via drip irrigation system.
Car and boat washing	Anytime	Anytime using a hose with an auto shut-off nozzle only. Recommend washing vehicles over grass or gravel.	Anytime using a hose with an auto shut-off nozzle only. Recommend washing vehicles over grass or gravel.	Anytime using a hose with an auto shut-off nozzle only. Recommend washing vehicles over grass or gravel.	Not permitted, though vehicle windows may be washed by hand for safety • Commercial car washes will remain open	Not permitted, though vehicle windows may be washed by hand for safety • Commercial car washes will remain open
Surface and power washing	Anytime	Anytime using a hose with an auto shut-off nozzle only.	Anytime using a hose with an auto shut-off nozzle only.	Anytime using a hose with an auto shut-off nozzle only.	Not permitted (unless ordered by a regulatory authority)	Not permitted
Pools, Spas, and Garden Ponds	Anytime	Anytime	Topping up only	Topping up only	Not permitted	Not permitted
Bulk water supply	Anytime	Anytime	Anytime	Anytime	Restricted	Not permitted

Amendments:

- February 24, 1998: Adopted (Resolution 145/98)
- 1998: Amended (Resolution 429/98)
- 1998: Amended (Resolution 794/98)
- 2005: Amended (Resolution 189/05)
- February 13, 2007: Amended (Resolution 96/07)
- 2012: No Amendments (Reviewed by Committee)
- November 14, 2017: Amended Policy Adopted (Resolution 208/17)