

City of Merritt Council Policy

Council Policy: [Outdoor Watering Conservation Policy](#)

Category No. **05 - ##**

Contact Department: [Engineering and Public Works](#)



1. PURPOSE

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

2. POLICY

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 times of water shortage and authorizes staff to adjust watering restrictions to appropriate levels informed by the BC Drought Response Plan.

3. OBJECTIVE

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.

4. 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 Director of Public Works and Engineering Services 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.

5. EXEMPTIONS

Upon application, the City of Merritt may grant exemptions to watering restrictions as long as the Drought Level is set at a Level 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.

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Table 1.0

Residential water uses:

OUTDOOR WATERING CONSERVATION POLICY 5-08 | JULY 2023

Watering Restrictions



LEVEL	LAWNS	VEGETABLE GARDENS TREES & SHRUBS			WASHING & POWERWASHING	POOLS SPAS & PONDS & BULK WATER
0	LAWN WATERING ANYTIME 	GARDEN WATERING ANYTIME 			WASHING ANYTIME Hose with Auto Shut-off Valve Wash over grass or gravel when possible	FILLING ANYTIME * Bulk Water Filling Permitted
1	LAWN WATERING 3 TIMES PER WEEK Hand watering not exempt 	GARDEN SPRINKLERS 3 TIMES PER WEEK 	HANDWATERING ANYTIME Hoses must have Auto Shut-off Valve 	DRIP IRRIGATION ANYTIME 	WASHING ANYTIME Hose with Auto Shut-off Valve Wash over grass or gravel when possible	FILLING ANYTIME * Bulk Water Filling Permitted
2	LAWN WATERING 3 TIMES PER WEEK Hand watering not exempt 	GARDEN SPRINKLERS 3 TIMES PER WEEK 	HANDWATERING ANYTIME Hoses must have Auto Shut-off Valve 	DRIP IRRIGATION ANYTIME 	WASHING ANYTIME Hose with Auto Shut-off Valve Wash over grass or gravel when possible	ANYTIME TOP UP ONLY * Bulk Water Filling Permitted
3	LAWN WATERING 2 TIMES PER WEEK Hand watering not exempt 	GARDEN SPRINKLERS 2 TIMES PER WEEK 	HANDWATERING ANYTIME Hoses must have Auto Shut-off Valve 	DRIP IRRIGATION ANYTIME 	WASHING ANYTIME Hose with Auto Shut-off Valve Wash over grass or gravel when possible	ANYTIME TOP UP ONLY * Bulk Water Filling Permitted
4	LAWN WATERING 1 TIME PER WEEK Hand watering not exempt 	GARDEN SPRINKLERS 2 TIMES PER WEEK 	HANDWATERING ANYTIME Hoses must have Auto Shut-off Valve 	DRIP IRRIGATION ANYTIME 	WASHING NOT PERMITTED * unless ordered by regulatory authority * Vehicle window hand washing only. Commercial car washes remain open	NOT PERMITTED * Bulk Water Restricted
5	LAWN WATERING NOT PERMITTED 	GARDEN SPRINKLERS NOT PERMITTED 	HANDWATERING ANYTIME VEGETABLE GARDEN ONLY Hoses must have Auto Shut-off Valve 	DRIP IRRIGATION ANYTIME VEGETABLE GARDEN ONLY 	WASHING NOT PERMITTED * unless ordered by regulatory authority * Vehicle window hand washing only. Commercial car washes remain open	NOT PERMITTED * Bulk Water Not Permitted

HOUSE #	LEVEL 1 + 2	
	MANUAL SPRINKLER 6 AM - 8 AM OR 7 PM - 9 PM	AUTOMATIC IRRIGATION 12 AM - 2 AM
EVEN	MONDAY WEDNESDAY FRIDAY	
ODD	TUESDAY THURSDAY SATURDAY	

LEVEL 3	
MANUAL SPRINKLER 6 AM - 8 AM OR 7 PM - 9 PM	AUTOMATIC IRRIGATION 12 AM - 2 AM
THURSDAY SUNDAY	
TUESDAY SATURDAY	

LEVEL 4	
MANUAL SPRINKLER 6 AM - 8 AM	AUTOMATIC IRRIGATION 12 AM - 2 AM
FRIDAY	
TUESDAY	

NOTE: Homes in strata complexes and mobile home parks should water according to unit number.

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Table 2.1 – THREE days per week regulations – Levels 1 & 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	Monday, Wednesday, Friday	
Odd	Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday	
Please note: Mobile homes in mobile home parks and homes in strata complexes should water according to unit number.		

Table 2.2 – TWO days 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	Thursday, Sunday	
Odd	Tuesday, Saturday	
Please note: Mobile homes in mobile home parks and homes in strata complexes should water according to unit number.		

Table 2.3 – ONE day per week regulations – Level 4

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

Approved on	1998/02/24
Amended on	1998 Resolution 429/98
Amended on	1998 Resolution 794/98
Amended on	2005 Resolution 189/05
Amended on	2007/02/13
Amended on	2017/11/14
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Amended on	2023/07/23
