

Watering Days

Q: What are my watering days?

A: It is based on the **last 2 digits** of your street address and the **current water restriction stage** (use this table to determine your days):

Water Use Schedule By Address*	Stage 1 (3 days/week)	Stage 2 (2 days/week)	Stage 3 (1 day/week)	Stage 4 (Not Permitted)
Group A (00 – 33)	Sun, Tues, Fri	Tues, Fri	Tues	---
Group B (34 – 66)	Mon, Wed, Sat	Wed, Sat	Wed	---
Group C (67 – 99)	Sun, Tues, Thurs	Sun, Thurs	Thurs	---

* Numbers in parenthesis are the last 2 digits of the street address. Stratas and mobile home parks (MHP) are to use the **street address**, *not* the unit address (i.e. the entire strata or MHP will share watering days).

Q: I’m in a **strata/mobile home park**. Do I use my unit number?

A: No, you use the street address, not the unit #. Therefore all units will have the same watering days.

Watering times/durations

Lawns

Q: How long can I water my lawn for?

A: Lawns are restricted to a maximum of 2 hours per day, regardless of the type of watering system used (i.e. sprinkler, soaker hose, drip irrigation, hand watering – all are 2 hours maximum per day). Watering is not permitted between 10 AM and 7 PM, during the hottest time of the day. It is preferable to run automatic sprinklers overnight, when demand on the system is lower.

Q: Can I get an exemption to water my new lawn?

A: Yes, exemptions are provided for new lawns in **Stages 1 and 2 only**. Two (2) week exemptions for new sod and three (3) week exemptions for new seed are provided. Please come to City Hall to fill-out the exemption form. If the restriction changes to Stage 3 or 4 during the exemption period, you will be allowed to complete the exemption period to ensure your new lawn doesn’t die.

Landscaping plants/trees/shrubs/flowers

Q: How long can I water my landscaping plants/trees/shrubs/flowers?

A: Sprinkler/soaker hose: Same restrictions as lawn irrigation - designated days of the week, 2 hours maximum per day. **Hand watering or drip irrigation:** 7 days/week, 2 hours maximum per day.

Food-producing plants

Q: How long can I water my vegetable garden (or other food producing plants) for?

A: Sprinkler or soaker hose: 7 days a week, 2 hours maximum per day. **Hand watering/drip irrigation:** As-needed (not restricted).

Q: Can I water my vegetable garden (or other food producing plants) in **Stage 4**?

A: Yes, food producing plants can be watered in all stages without changes to the restrictions.

General

Q: Can I water for 1 hour in the morning and 1 hour in the evening?

A: Yes, the 2 hour maximum can be split if needed.

Q: When will the stage be changed?

A: There are no specific dates for stage changes. Stage 1 is in effect year-round and higher restriction stages will be implemented based on demand on the system and environmental conditions (drought, wildfires, etc.).

Q: I don't want to have to change my automatic sprinkler system every time the stage changes.

A: The City allows 3 days of irrigation in Stage 1 for flexibility, however it does not mean that you need to water your lawn 3 days a week. It is best to set the system to run 2 days per week for a maximum of 2 hours per day as it is most likely that Stage 2 restrictions will be implemented every summer. Lawns typically only need 1" to 1.5" of water per week to establish a deep and drought-tolerant root system. Too much water creates a shallow root system that is not drought-tolerant. Automatic sprinklers should have a rain sensor and/or rain gauge installed so that they do not come-on if there has been sufficient rainfall.

Other outdoor water-use

Q: Can I wash my car, boat, driveway, windows or fill my pool, cold tub/hot tub?

A: These are all permitted in Stages 1, 2 and 3, but not permitted in Stage 4. There are no specific restrictions for non-irrigation water use. We only ask that you perform these tasks only when necessary and be as conservative as possible (ex. fill a bucket with water to wash the car). In Stage 4, non-irrigation water use is only permitted for health and safety reasons, or rinsing a boat to remove invasive species.

Q: Why can car washes operate in Stage 4?

A: The water from car washes is returned to the lake through the sanitary sewer system and waste water treatment plant, rather than evaporating. Car washes can be used to wash vehicles and boats during Stage 4 restrictions.

More information and current stage

- Visit www.salmonarm.ca/water-restrictions (or do an internet search for City of Salmon Arm water restrictions to find the page).
- The **water restrictions info sheet** is on the web page or printed copies are at the front counter at City Hall (or can be mailed if necessary).
- Sign-up for **Notify Me** alerts to get text or email alerts when stage changes. The link for Notify Me is on the water restrictions web page or at the bottom of any City of Salmon Arm web page under Helpful Links.
- Look for water restrictions signs posted around the City for current stage.
- Contact the City at 250.803.4000 or email info@salmonarm.ca if further assistance is needed.