

In February 2019, Airdrie introduced a new Waterworks Bylaw

Here are some key points you need to know.



What do level one, two and three mean?

LEVEL ONE

is status quo, the water schedule in level one is in place whether or not there's a water shortage.

LEVEL TWO

water shortage would be declared in times of drought, emergency (like the floods in 2013), distribution issues or infrastructure failure.

LEVEL THREE

water shortage would be declared if Airdrie was facing serious challenges in providing sufficient water supply. This would usually affect a wider area than Airdrie.

Residents and businesses would be notified through a variety of communication channels, such as roadside signs, social media and web if a level two or three Water Use Restriction was declared.

When can I water during level one?

- Even numbered addresses (0, 2, 4, 6, 8) can water lawns, gardens, trees and shrubs on Monday, Wednesday and Saturday from 6 to 9 a.m. and 7 to 10 p.m. for hose connected sprinkler or from 1 to 4 a.m. for automated irrigation systems
- Odd numbered addresses (1, 3, 5, 7, 9) can water Tuesday, Thursday and Sunday from 6 to 9 a.m. and 7 to 10 p.m. for hose connected sprinkler or from 1 to 4 a.m. for automated irrigation systems

Why was this odd and even system chosen?

The odd/even system allows us to balance the demand for water throughout the week. There are also an equal number of watering days in the month for each customer.

What happens on Fridays?

Not permitting watering on Fridays gives the reservoirs a chance to replenish in preparation for the weekend, which is when the City experiences its highest demand.



Can I still water my flowers?

Gardens, trees, shrubs and flowers can be watered on any day using a hand held container (watering can) or a hose attached to a hand held spray nozzle in a level one or two but not during a level three water restriction.



Can I fill up a kiddie pool or let my kids run through the sprinkler?

Yes, your kids can run through the sprinkler and you can fill fountains and other decorative features on any day during level one. Neither are allowed during a level two or three water restriction.



I just planted new sod, can I water it?

You can water new grass plantings (sod or seed) every day with a water use exception permit. You can find this permit on www.airdrie.ca/waterconservation.



I'm not home during the designated watering times, what should I do?

We'd recommend getting a water timer to put on your hose. You can get them at most hardware stores.



Won't my grass die?

Studies have shown that watering less creates stronger grass but some other tips for great grass are:

- Only water when you need to. An established lawn only requires about one inch of water a week.
TIP: place a Frisbee® upside down on the lawn and only water until it's full.
- Leave grass 3" long to prevent scorching and water evaporation
- Grass-cycle – leave your grass clippings on the lawn, this provides extra nutrients for the lawn and helps retain moisture.



I pay for my water, why can't I just water whenever I want?

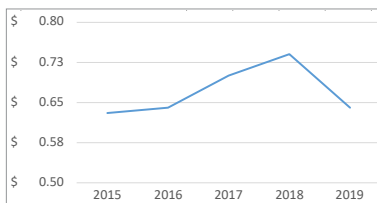
Water is a finite resource that needs to be protected. The Bow Glacier that feeds the Bow and Elbow Rivers has experienced significant depletion over the past few decades. The City gets our water from Calgary, who sources it from these rivers.

Watering during the scheduled times (early in the morning or late at night) will reduce evaporation and allow water to soak into soil and reach grass roots.

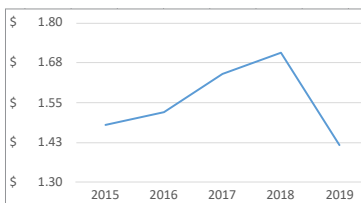
Will my water rates go down because of this?

Your fixed service rate covers the water service to your home and maintenance to water service infrastructure so it doesn't go down based on consumption. However the fixed daily charge and consumption rates for 2019 were both reduced because of new rates with Calgary.

Water – Fixed Daily Charge



Water – Consumption Rate per M3



What other municipalities have these types of restrictions?

Okotoks and Vancouver have a seasonal watering schedule. Nanton and Cochrane have year-round water schedules. Nanton and Okotoks' are also based on the even/odd system.

How will this be enforced?

In 2019, Water Services will focus on educating residents about water conservation and the new Bylaw. Most of Municipal Enforcement's tickets are complaint based. If they have been called by a resident, officers will investigate a situation.

Why does the City water when it's raining?

There are a few sites in Airdrie where stormwater is used to irrigate greenspaces, separate from the potable water irrigation system. These sites are not linked to rain sensors and may be irrigated during or immediately after rain. This can be an effective measure to prevent salt present in stormwater from building-up in the soil to protect long-term soil quality. This may also occur if the amount of rain isn't enough to trip the automatic settings in the parks irrigation smart system.

I've seen fire hydrants flushing lots of water before.

Why does the City do that?

Water mains are flushed prior to restoring water services to residents. This process flushes sediment from the lines and is required by the Province. All publicly owned hydrants are flushed and tested in the spring by the Airdrie Fire Department (AFD) to meet the National Fire Protection Act standard.

Visit www.airdrie.ca/waterconservation for more info.