

# Reducing Water Use // Every Drop Counts

## **IMPORTANT WATER UPDATE: Notice to the community of Mount Washington: Friday, August 4, 2023**

Vancouver Island as a whole moved to a level 5 drought as of July 2, 2023, which is the highest on B.C.'s drought scale, prompting provincial officials to urge all people to conserve water. The drought scale runs from 0, meaning there is enough water to meet all needs, to 5, meaning adverse impacts are inevitable.

Mount Washington is not immune to these conditions and is also in a stage 5 drought. While Mount Washington is not currently implementing restrictions, we are asking residents, visitors, and all staff to do their part in reducing any activities that require water use and to manage use accordingly. We urgently need everyone to be aware that our water supply is finite and needs to be conserved for emergency use when demand is required.

One of the three primary water sources that Mount Washington uses as potable water has currently stopped producing. While this happens typically in the summer each year, this season's early drought has brought this about much sooner than usual. The remaining two water sources continue to produce an adequate supply, as expected for this time of year.

Simple steps that everyone can take include: taking shorter showers, not washing our vehicles, not watering lawns more than necessary, only running washing machines or dishwashers when they're full, turning off the tap when you brush your teeth or shave. If everyone makes a few small changes to how we use water, it can have a profound impact. See a full list below.

We would like to thank you in advance for your help and attention on this serious matter. Please stay updated as the situation progresses and do your best to reduce water consumption.

Thank you,

Utilities Department  
Mount Washington Alpine Resort

### **What can you do to help?**

- Take shorter showers, avoid baths, and don't run taps while brushing your teeth or washing dishes.
- Only run your dishwasher when you have a full load. Dishwashers use large volumes of water, about 60 litres of water per load. If washing dishes by hand, do not wash or rinse with running water. Use tubs or plug the sink.
- Bring a water supply with you and refrain from drinking tap water.
- Only run washing machines with full loads or on eco mode. Washing machines use anywhere between 100-200 litres of water per load. Better yet, if you are able to do your laundry elsewhere off-mountain.
- Reduce the number of times you flush your toilet with multiple uses before flushing. Unnecessary flushing of the toilet even once a day can waste up to 1,000 litres of water per year (please repair/shut off any toilets that have constant running water)
- Inform any visitors you may have arriving to do the same and conserve water usage however possible throughout their stay.
- Recycle unused water. While waiting for hot water to flow when preparing for a shower, catch the cool water in a bucket. This water can be used later for plants, pets or cleaning. Refrain from filling or topping up hot tubs or pools. If these are required for your rentals please have them filled from providers from town (eg. H2O to go or Lyster Ventures).
- Report anything that could be identified as a potential water leak in the village
- Use water wisely. Read more on the province of BC water conversation information: [mountwashington.ca/water](https://mountwashington.ca/water)