

Reducing Water Use // Every Drop Counts

Notice to the community of Mt. Washington: Friday, December 2, 2022

The springs which produce Mount Washington's potable water supply have slowed to record low production. Expecting an increase in visitors to the mountain as our winter season and the holidays approach, there are concerns about potential water shortages, and as such proactive measures are required by all members of the community and those visiting to conserve our current water supply. With Vancouver Island experiencing the worst drought levels in over 15 years, the Puntledge River flow and the Comox Lake Reservoir level have also never been as low as they are now; the Campbell River reservoir storage is the lowest on record since 1984, BC Hydro said in a release this past Monday. Snowpack in the upper watershed is less than 25 percent of what is considered normal for this time of year. With Mt. Washington's elevation at the top of the watershed, we are among the first to be affected by water shortages.

What is Mount Washington Alpine Resort doing?

- Reducing water use throughout business operations wherever possible
 - Shutting off water refill stations
 - Use of disposable plates & cutlery to reduce the use of dishwashers
 - Educate staff on water-saving measures including bringing water from home
- Providing bottled water for sale at F&B outlets and retail locations around the resort
- Providing notices to all overnight and arriving guests to bring a supply of bottled water with them, and to reduce water usage while visiting by means noted below
- Adding porta potties outside to reduce indoor use
- Maintaining hand sanitizer stations around the resort to reduce the need for additional hand washing

What we are preparing for:

- Housing a backup water supply wherever we can for emergency needs
- The potential for a boil water advisory and how that may affect resort operations, guests visiting and community residents
- Testing of potential alternative potable water sources to be redirected

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

Please stay updated as the situation progresses and do your best to reduce water consumption.

Thank you,

Utilities Department
Mount Washington Alpine Resort