

# RDCO Water Talk



Your Water-wise Information Source

**Drinking Water Awareness Week—May 1st—7th**  
**Okanagan waterwise 'One Valley. One Water.'**

[www.okwaterwise.ca](http://www.okwaterwise.ca)

## Get a grip on your water consumption!

### CONSERVATION TIPS

- Identify where you use water in your home.
- Decide how to reduce consumption—either by eliminating wasteful practices or by improving efficiency of fixtures and devices.
- Target the bathroom where almost 65% of indoor water use occurs.
- By reducing, repairing and retrofitting, a typical household can cut water consumption by at least 40% with little impact on daily living.

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With a few exceptions, most customers of the Regional District water systems have water flowing through their new meters.

With the warming temperatures RDCO contractors will be installing the final water meters for a few customers in the Killiney Beach and Westshore water utilities.

Customers on those systems along with the Deitrich/Star Place, Sunset Ranch, Falconridge water utilities operated and maintained by the Regional District, should keep an eye on the water portion of their quarterly utility bill.

During 2011, that's where you'll find useful information about how much water your home is using! Water consumption information is gathered from readings taken on the water meter that was installed in your home.

## Outdoor Irrigation— Drives Up Water Use!

You can help conserve water and ensure there's enough of the valuable resource for your neighbours by following the year-round irrigation regulations!

These are in effect for all of the Regional District water systems unless more severe

restrictions are in place. It shows the previous reading, the current reading and the amount of water your family has used in the past three month period (in cubic meters the most common measure of water volume).

This information will help your family make the right decisions to conserve our precious water resource.

Later this year, we anticipate providing you with the proposed new water charge rate structure as we move from the existing flat user fee to a more equitable rate that includes consumption tiers.

The goal is to encourage wise water use by rewarding those who consume less and charging more for heavy users.

As you might expect, experience has shown that water consumption rises dramatically in the spring

and summer months as a result of lawn and garden watering.

Checking the flow...



...preserving our water

Your new water meter not only checks how much water you use in your home, but can indicate if there's a leak in your home system!

The Regional District reminds you year Irrigation regulations are in place year round.

To learn more about water conservation visit [regionaldistrict.com/water](http://regionaldistrict.com/water)

restrictions are in place.

**Stage 1 Alternate day sprinkling—September 16th to June 15th.** This means if you have an even numbered address you may water on even calendar days while those with an odd number street address may irrigate on odd calendar

days.

**Stage 2 Twice Weekly Sprinkling—June 16th to September 15th.** Those with even number addresses to water Saturday and Tuesday while customers with odd numbered addresses may water Sunday and Wednesday.

**No Water?  
Emergency Contacts**

**Monday-Friday  
8:00 am—4:00 pm  
250-469-6241**

**After Hours/  
Holidays  
250-868-5299**



“More than half of the water applied to lawns and gardens is lost due to evaporation and run-off due to overwatering.”

## Construction Underway for New Water System

It’s something that most property owners in three ‘dry’ subdivisions have been waiting for.

Construction is underway on a new community water system that will service more than 340 properties in the Upper Fintry, Shalal Road and Valley of the Sun areas, off north Westside Road.

The new system will not only provide a domestic water source for their homes, but ensure there’s water through hydrants for fire protection.

The project history dates back to spring 2007, when the Regional District received requests to study the feasibility of establishing a community water system for these areas which had no water source.

Once it was determined a water system was possible and initial cost estimates were prepared, the majority of property owners approved a formal petition requesting the Regional District proceed with developing the service.

Construction began earlier this year on a water control building housing pumps and wells for the system. Getting the water delivery pipes into the ground is expected to take place throughout the summer and early fall. It’s anticipated this will be complete and commissioned by the end of the year.

Project updates and information is available on the Regional District website [regionaldistrict.com](http://regionaldistrict.com)—Select Quick Links—New Water System

## Summer Watering—don’t Evaporate, Irrigate!

Get the most from your outdoor watering this summer and feel good about it!

You can have a healthy lawn and growing garden while reducing the amount of water running through your hose or irrigation system.

More than half of the water applied to lawns and gardens is lost due to evaporation and run-off due to overwatering.

Here are some simple tips to help get you through the drier

months.

Measure your sprinkling. Generally, most lawns and gardens require no more than 3 centimeters (one inch) of water each week.

Water only on your irrigation day (see page 1) and during the specified time period. During Stage 1 and 2 restrictions, if you have an automated irrigation system you may water between midnight and 6:00 am on your watering day. If you have manual irri-

gation you can water between 6:00 and 11:00 am and 6:00 pm and midnight on your watering day. This helps ensure adequate reservoir levels and that water is available for fire protection.

Use a bucket and sponge or brush with a shut off valve when washing your vehicle. This can save about 300-litres of water!

For more outdoor conservation tips visit [regionaldistrict.com/water](http://regionaldistrict.com/water)

## Where’s Your Emergency Water Turnoff?

We hope you will never need it, but as a homeowner, it’s in your best interest to take a few minutes to find out where you shut off the water to your dwelling. Sometimes emergency water leaks inside your home may require you to turn off the main shut off valve.

This valve is usually located

close to where the water line enters the building. It could be near the pressure reducing valve if you have one, close to your water meter. When you find it, make it clearly visible!

It’s better to know now where you turn off the water to your house, than having to take precious minutes during an emergency to try

and find it.

If a water leak is on the supply side of the main shut off valve...contact the Regional District at the numbers listed on this newsletter. And we ask that you please don’t landscape around or bury the supply side shut off valve. Please keep it visible so our staff can easily find it quickly.



Make sure your family knows where the emergency water shut off is located inside your home!