
BRAITHWAITE ESTATES IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT

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To the Landowners of Braithwaite Estates Improvement District (BEID):

Summer Water Use

The aquifer¹ at this time has an adequate supply of safe drinking water to meet the normal needs of its users, however, in light of the current drought conditions, the BEID Trustees strongly suggest all households connected to the BEID system practice good water use during this period.

The following information are ways we can all use water in smart ways:

Water Conservation

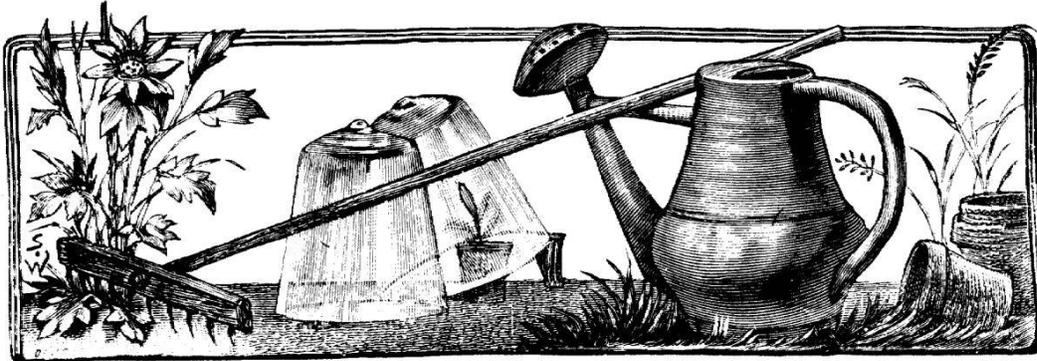
In the garden:

- Water your lawn only when it needs it. If the grass springs back when you step on it, there is no need to water. Usually one inch of water once a week is enough. To measure this, place a flat container like an empty tuna fish can about six feet from your sprinkler and time how long it takes to fill one inch. Accidentally leaving the sprinkler on for 8 hours can easily use 8,000 litres of water, so the next time you water; set the kitchen timer to remind you to turn off the sprinkler, or purchase a timer that can be set to turn the sprinkler off automatically.
- Set lawnmower blades one notch higher since longer grass means less evaporation. When its really sunny leave grass clippings on the lawn.
- Plan to seed new lawns in the spring and autumn when normal rainfall will do most of your watering. Consider plantings that require less water.
- Skip watering on windy days and avoid watering during the hottest part of the day. Water that you are paying for is evaporating too quickly under these conditions. The best time for watering is early in the morning or in the evening, when there is less evaporation.
- You can use a lot less water just by improving soil quality. Add compost, manure or leaf mould to retain moisture. Cover the soil with mulches – gravel, pebbles, compost, bark chips; even sawdust, pine needles or grass clippings will do. They cut water evaporation, keep soil cool in the summer, warm in winter and inhibit thirsty weeds. Mulching is especially good in pots and tubs, which dry out quickly.



¹ Groundwater Level Statistics Chart: <http://agrt.nrs.gov.bc.ca/Report/Show/3160/Groundwater.OW320.GWLLevelStatChart.pdf>

- Don't just water all over. Target specific plants or areas that need water. If possible use a watering can at 10 litres a go, rather than hose pipes or sprinklers which can use 1,000 litres per hour!
- Invest in a rain barrel to capture rainwater from your roof. Use this "free" water to fill your watering can.
- Adjust your sprinklers so that they are not watering your sidewalks, driveway or the street.
- Dig a "moat" around trees and shrubs to collect water. Whenever possible try to make sure flowerbeds are level after planting to stop water run off.



Inside the house:

- Showers use 30 litres of water on average; baths use 110 litres. If you do use the bath try not to overfill it.
- Install low flow showerheads, aerator/sprayers to all your faucets, and if you renovate install low flush toilets.
- Run the dishwasher and washing machine only when you have a full load.
- Keep a bottle of drinking water in the refrigerator instead of running the tap for cold water.
- Put bathroom trash in the wastebasket instead of flushing it down the toilet.
- Typically, toilets represent 40% of household water use. A leaking toilet can cost you a lot of money! You can check tanks for leaks by dropping food colouring into the tank. If colour appears in the bowl without flushing, there is a leak that should be repaired.
- Dripping taps can waste 4 litres of water an hour. That's nearly 100 litres of water a day! Repair all leaking faucets both inside and outside the home – its not just water running out of that tap, it's your money too!

If you have any questions, please contact the improvement district.

¹ Groundwater Level Statistics Chart: <http://agrt.nrs.gov.bc.ca/Report/Show/3160/Groundwater.OW320.GWLevelStatChart.pdf>