



Rotor sprinklers \$\$

- ✓ Good for irregular shaped yards
- ✓ Moderate cost
- ✗ Water loss due to evaporation
- ✗ Water coverage not consistent
- ✗ Increase risk of pests and disease from wetting foliage



Other sprinklers \$

- ✓ Ideal for covering areas in a short time
- ✓ Good for flat areas
- ✓ Inexpensive
- ✗ Large loss of water due to evaporation
- ✗ Run-off can pool and drown downhill plants



WaterSmart Strategies

Water advisories

The RDCK will periodically issue Water Quality Advisories or Boil Water Notices for users on RDCK systems. These notifications are issued if there is high turbidity or serious health risk associated with tap water.

Sign up for notifications by text message or phone call by calling 1-833-223-2662 or email your name and contact information to WaterFinance@rdck.bc.ca

Learn more

rdck.ca/water

Contact us

Water emergencies (24/7):
250-352-1504

General enquiries:
1-800-268-7325 ext 8171 or 250-352-8171
watercontact@rdck.bc.ca

Water conservation stages

The RDCK issues notifications on water and water use restrictions in RDCK water systems, usually during dry summer months in order to conserve water reserves. Restrictions are described from Stage 1 to Stage 4 and can limit or restrict lawn and garden watering.

Check out these other WaterSmart brochures:

- Planting Drought Resistant Landscapes
- Alternatives to Thirsty Lawns
- Water Conservation Stages

Better Outdoor Irrigation



Why WaterSmart?

British Columbia has a seemingly abundant supply of water: from mountain snow packs it flows down our rivers, and into our lakes and eventually the ocean. In BC, we use about 490 litres average per person per day, and the Canadian average is 330 litres per person per day (Province of BC, Living Water Smart). The Regional District of Central Kootenay (RDCK) and Columbia Basin Trust, together with member municipalities, supports and facilitates water conservation and source protection efforts to help assure the availability of clean water for human and ecological needs.

Conserving water outdoors around your home

Water use increases significantly during summer months when lawns and garden need watering. Help conserve water by watering smartly, using irrigation best practices, and planting drought resistant lawns and gardens.

Don't overwater: Most lawns, gardens and trees don't need very much water.

Water trees, shrubs and lawns deeply, which reaches roots and avoids evaporation. Less water is better than a heavy soaking: this conserves water and is much better for your lawn and garden!



Drip irrigation \$\$\$ BEST WaterSmart choice

- ✓ Suitable for a variety of yard shapes and sizes
 - ✓ Minimal loss of nutrients and fertilizers
 - ✓ Combine with an irrigation controller and your water use can be cut in half
 - ✓ Water releases slowly to allow for healthy root development
 - ✓ Little to no water loss due to evaporation or run-off
 - ✓ Metered water customers will save money on their bills
 - ✓ Can be connected to a variety of water sources (potable or non-potable)
 - ✓ Soil erosion and weed growth is reduced
 - ✓ Water use is easily controlled
 - ✓ Plant foliage remains dry and therefore reduces risk of disease
 - ✓ Can be used with lower water pressure
- ✗ Set-up costs may be more expensive than overhead sprinklers
- ✗ Fall maintenance required to prepare system for winter



Rain harvesting \$

Use rainwater collected around your property to water your garden and conserve water.

Place rain barrels near downspouts around buildings and allow them to fill during rainy seasons. Attach a hose to the spout and use the water right away.

Don't just save rain barrel water for drought times: use saved water throughout the year to take pressure off valuable water supplies, and save additional runoff from entering the stormwater system.

- ✓ Rain barrels can be used even during water restrictions
- ✓ Water is directed away from your home's foundations
- ✓ Save money on your utility water bill

Other outdoor watering options:

- Dig ditches or trenches to direct water to where it is needed
- Use mulch and compost to help absorb and retain water
- Use self-watering containers
- Use plants to shade exposed soil and reduce evaporation
- Use ollas -- terracotta pots filled with water are sunk into the soil and slowly release water to roots of plants



Soaker hoses \$\$

- ✓ Use in small areas at furthest point from hose
 - ✓ Simple system that distributes water at a semi-controlled rate
- ✗ Can clog with sediments
- ✗ Rodents and other pests like the steady water supply
- ✗ Wasteful, not recommended

In-ground sprinklers \$\$\$

- ✓ Use in small areas at furthest point from hose
- ✓ Simple system that distributes water at a semi-controlled rate
- ✓ Can be more expensive than other simpler methods
- ✓ Do-it-yourself installation may be challenging