

Lawn Watering: Are You Odd or Even?

Durham's Outdoor Water Use By-law

As a result of the hot dry weather we experienced last summer, Durham Region and many other Ontario municipalities were forced to issue watering restrictions. These restrictions were necessary because water use was high enough to make keeping up with demand difficult. Watering restrictions are designed to ensure that no one runs out of water and that there is enough water for fire fighting needs.

Restrictions are necessary if we experience long dry periods without rain such as we encountered last summer and if residents do not practice restraint in their lawn watering.

To help us cope with the higher water demand in summer, and to help avoid water restrictions, Durham residents must practice Odd/Even Day Lawn Watering. By going Odd/Even, you are watering only on:

- Odd Numbered Calendar Days if your Street Address Number is Odd
- Even Numbered Calendar Days if your Street Address Number is Even

By reducing the number of people using water outdoors on any given day, the peak usage is reduced, allowing the water supply plants and reservoirs to meet the higher water demand during hot, dry weather.



Did you know that practicing Odd/Even Day Lawn Watering is required by Durham's Water By-law 89-2003? This By-law restricts the outdoor use of water on odd or even numbered calendar days, for watering your lawn, washing cars, running sprinklers, etc. To comply with the By-law, residents with an odd municipal street address number should restrict outdoor water use to odd calendar days, and residents with an even numbered municipal street address should restrict outdoor water use to even calendar days.

A permitted exception is for the watering of newly laid sod, which should only be watered between 7:00 a.m. and 9:00 a.m. each day.