

French Creek Newsletter

SPRING 2024

RATE APPLICATION UPDATE

In December 2023, we applied to the B.C. Comptroller of Water Rights to set water rates for the current 2024 - 2026 rate period.

The new rates will be effective January 1, 2024, but reflected on customer bills after April 1, 2024. If the rates are not approved in time for the April 2024 billings, any adjustments will appear on your October 2024 bill.

Visit our epcor.com for more information on the rate application and the associated regulatory process.

Why the Rates are changing

We apply to set the water rates in French Creek every three years. The new rates will enable EPCOR to carry out its scheduled operating and capital programs for the 2024 -2026 rate period, which allows us to continue providing safe and reliable water service to our customers.

While we have adequate supply for the needs of our customers, we want to ensure there's capacity to support the continued growth of the community while safeguarding the local watershed.

WATERING RESTRICTIONS

Our watering restrictions framework is currently being reviewed with participating districts on Vancouver Island.

For updates regarding the new watering restrictions schedule, please refer to our website or contact our office directly.

WATER CONSERVATION TIPS

Landscaping and Lawns:

- Add mulch to your soil to conserve water by reducing evaporation, lowering soil temperature and controlling weeds which compete with other plants for water. Mulches can include shredded leaves, wood chips, grass clippings or even rock and gravel.
- Native vegetation is least thirsty. Ensure that the grass, shrubs, or trees you buy will thrive in our particular geographic area.
- Cut your grass relatively high (6 cm or 2.5 inches). Taller grass shades the roots and holds moisture better.

Rain Barrels for Water Collection

Rain barrels collect and store rainwater, which can then be used for watering your lawn, garden and potted plants. Half an inch of rainwater typically fills a 208-litre/55-gallon rain barrel. Note that you should never use collected rainwater for drinking or food preparation.

Maintaining your rain barrel

- Clean the screen monthly to remove debris and leaves.
- Add a small amount of olive oil or dish soap to the water to prevent mosquitoes from breeding in your barrel.
- Keep the lid on your barrel at all times to keep children and wildlife out.

Storing your rain barrel

In preparation for winter, drain your barrel and store it upside down in a shed or garage. If the barrel is left outside during the winter and exposed to the elements, the plastic may crack.

Caution: *collected rainwater is not potable water. Never drink or ingest standing water that has been collected in a rain barrel. This water may become stagnant or contaminated, and is not fit for human or animal consumption.*

CONTACT US

EPCOR's office is open Monday to Friday, 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. We are closed from 12:00 – 12:30 p.m.

The office will be closed for the following holidays: May 20 and July 1, 2024.

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