

Peel Region is asking customers to use water wisely

Residents and businesses in Peel Region may continue their current water use practices, but are asked to use it wisely and efficiently.

Despite low levels of rain in recent weeks, the Region is currently not implementing restrictions on water use. Much of the Region's water comes from Lake Ontario and there is adequate treatment and supply capacity.

At this time, while we do encourage our customers to use water wisely, we are not implementing any formal watering restrictions, said Andrew Farr, (acting) executive director of water and wastewater for the Region. The water system is designed to be sustainable in varying demand conditions, including typical demands faced in dry summer months. Even then, we are seeing a more sustained period of high water use this year than in previous years. But we are still in good shape.

Peel staff continue to monitor the weather and source water conditions, comparing them against demand, system capacity and reservoir levels. While reservoir levels are stable, if drought conditions persist and the Region is not able to maintain reservoir levels, they may look at more formal water restrictions. But at this time, there are no problems with customers continuing with reasonable water use practices.

But the Region also has some outdoor water efficiency tips for customers to consider.

Choosing perennials, shrubs and trees will save time and water as they grow each year and need minimal watering after they are established.

Consider using a rainbarrel during the growing season to offset water use. The Region offers rainbarrels at a subsidized cost.

Adding a three-inch layer of mulch to the garden will help retain moisture in the soil during dry periods.

Add compost to gardens. Compost works like a sponge and will help retain the moisture in the soil.

Weed on a regular basis. Weeds use water and other nutrients that are needed to sustain healthy plants in the garden.

Consider a water-efficient assessment from a Water Smart Irrigation Professional for residential or business irrigation systems.

If there's an automated irrigation system, install a rain sensor. Rain sensors save water by turning off the system when it rains.

Install a soaker hose or drip line. Soaker hoses and drip lines add water slowly to the garden, supporting healthy root systems and can be covered by mulch.

When running a sprinkler, position it to avoid watering hard surfaces like driveways and patios.

Sweep, don't spray. Use a broom to clear driveways, sidewalks and patios as a great alternative to using a hose.

Adjust lawn mowers to higher settings. The longer grass will shade the roots and help retain moisture in the soil.

Water in the early morning to help reduce the amount of water lost to evaporation.

Visit watersmartpeel.ca for more tips and programs that support water conservation.

To learn more about Region of Peel programs and services, visit peelregion.ca and sign up for the Connect to Peel newsletter.