

Outside the home

Gardening

Plant drought-resistant species, landscape with native plants and use mulch to retain soil moisture. Water early in the morning. Water the plant roots instead of the leaves.

Lawns

Let your grass go golden in the summertime – it will go green again in the fall.

Raingardens

Visit crd.bc.ca/education to learn how you can build these landscape features that collect water and recharge groundwater aquifers.



Did you know?
Many native plants are drought tolerant and provide food for butterflies, insects and birds.

Less is More

Consider alternative technologies for efficient water use at home.



Professionally installed **flow monitors** tell you if you're using more water than you have by measuring the amount and rate of flow of water into your well. Data loggers help you identify water level changes over time and provide an early warning signal when levels are critically low.



Well pump timers, when used with a cistern, let you set pump intervals to slowly draw water out of your well at pre-set times for future use. These devices help people with low-producing wells maximize the amount of water from a well, without overdrawing it.



Rainwater harvesting is a way to collect and use water for your plants, outdoor cleaning, and even for household use and drinking. The Regional District of Nanaimo has a comprehensive rain harvesting guide on their website: rdn.bc.ca.

Islanders are already doing a lot to conserve groundwater supplies and protect aquifer water quality. Share water conservation ideas with your friends and visitors.



Get your water tested regularly to ensure it is safe to drink.



Greywater recycling systems can relieve demand on your well, cistern, and septic systems. Low-risk greywater systems collect water from sinks, laundry, showers, and bathtubs for re-use in toilets and landscaping. Contact your local building inspector and health authority for more information.



Composting toilets may be acceptable as an "alternative solution" in some cases if the toilet and greywater treatment comply with provincial regulations. Contact your local health authority before considering this option.



Learn more about water conservation at islandstrust.bc.ca/water
Or contact us by email information@islandstrust.bc.ca

Groundwater: Our Shared Responsibility!



Islands Trust

Islands Trust acknowledges that the islands and waters that encompass the Salish Sea have been home to Indigenous Peoples since time immemorial. We recognize that we are all connected with the lands, waters, culture, and ecology that embody this place.

Groundwater: A Precious Resource

Groundwater is one of the most valuable resources on the islands.

Island groundwater begins as rain and snow and makes its way through the trees and plants to enter the soil and fractures in the bedrock, ending in sandy-gravel aquifers. Groundwater is a renewable, but limited resource. We all have a responsibility to be good stewards of groundwater to ensure it is available to all – today and in the future.

Risk of saltwater intrusion is of special concern for coastal well owners. It can impact both drinking water and local ecosystems. Saltwater intrusion can occur from both overuse of groundwater and rising sea levels.

There are many actions we can take to sustain our groundwater.

Water and waterways interconnect to the wellbeing, culture and ceremonial practices of Indigenous peoples on the islands.

Be a Water Saver!

In the home – reduce, repair, retrofit

Our daily activities affect our groundwater.



Toilets

Use low-flush toilets.



Showers and baths

Use low-flow showerheads and take short showers.



Laundry

Use high efficiency machines – you could use up to 50% less water. Do full loads.



Check for leaks

Fix leaky faucets, showerheads, toilets, and irrigation systems – you could save thousands of litres of water a month.



Kitchen

Use a basin to wash and rinse dishes and vegetables/fruit, and dispose of the water on plants. Don't run the water constantly while washing dishes. Use high efficiency dishwashers.



Cleaning

Use a pail rather than running water.

WHERE DOES ALL THAT WATER GO?

5%

10%

14%

20%

22%

28%

Source: Regional District of Nanaimo



Install rain barrels to collect rain and water plants in your garden.