

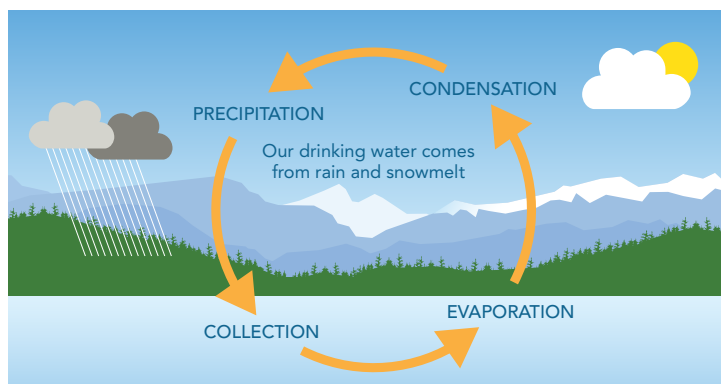


WHERE DOES OUR WATER COME FROM?

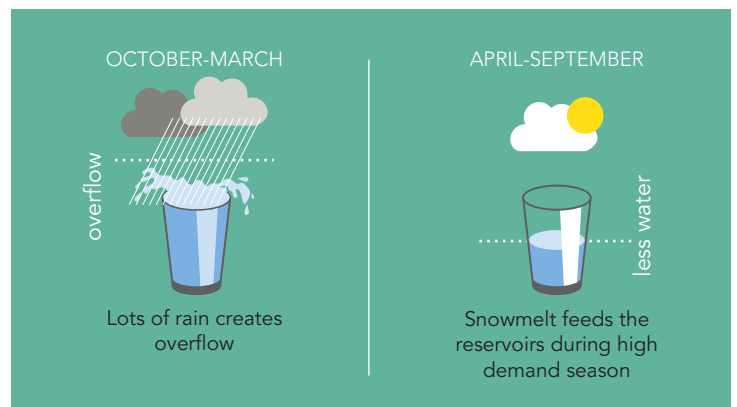
METRO VANCOUVER WATERSHEDS

Our drinking water comes from rainfall and snowmelt in three mountain watersheds. Watersheds are areas where streams and rivers drain to the same body of water. The three watersheds-- Capilano, Seymour and Coquitlam – together cover an area 150 times the size of Stanley Park. The watersheds are closed to public access, protecting our water supply from pollution or forest fires.

Rain and melting snow flow downhill through the watersheds' creeks and streams into large collection lakes called reservoirs. Metro Vancouver's three main reservoirs store this water for drinking water supply.



Much of the water captured in the reservoirs evaporates or flows onwards to the ocean, where it will eventually return to the atmosphere (to once again fall as rain and snow).

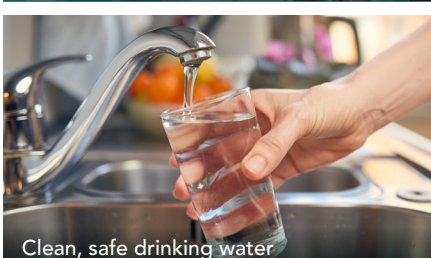


The reservoirs can only capture so much of the rainfall that falls during the wet months. Snowmelt helps sustain the reservoirs through the summer and early fall, when there is little rain.

Our protected watersheds provide a pristine source of drinking water for 2.8 million residents in the Lower Mainland.

These vast areas of forested land also contribute to our clean air and provide habitat for a wide range of wildlife.

HOW DOES WATER GET FROM THE MOUNTAINS



Metro Vancouver uses a system of supply watersheds and reservoirs, dams, treatment facilities, pump stations and water mains to connect to municipal systems throughout the region, which deliver water to your tap.

1 METRO VANCOUVER DELIVERS
BILLION
LITRES OF DRINKING WATER EACH DAY

Metro Vancouver supplies about one billion litres of drinking water each day (rising to over 1.5 billion in summer) to municipalities. That's enough to fill BC Place every day.

HOW DOES METRO VANCOUVER KEEP YOUR WATER CLEAN AND SAFE?

Even though our water comes from rain and snowmelt, it still needs to be treated to make sure it's clean and safe for drinking.

The Seymour Capilano Filtration Plant treats water from both the Capilano and Seymour reservoirs, while the Coquitlam Water Treatment Plant treats water from the Coquitlam Reservoir.

All our water is treated to the same high standards for drinking water, whether it is used for drinking, cooking and cleaning, watering lawns, or washing cars.

Water is tested at the reservoirs, through the water mains, and again in each municipality to ensure it's clean and safe all the way to your tap.

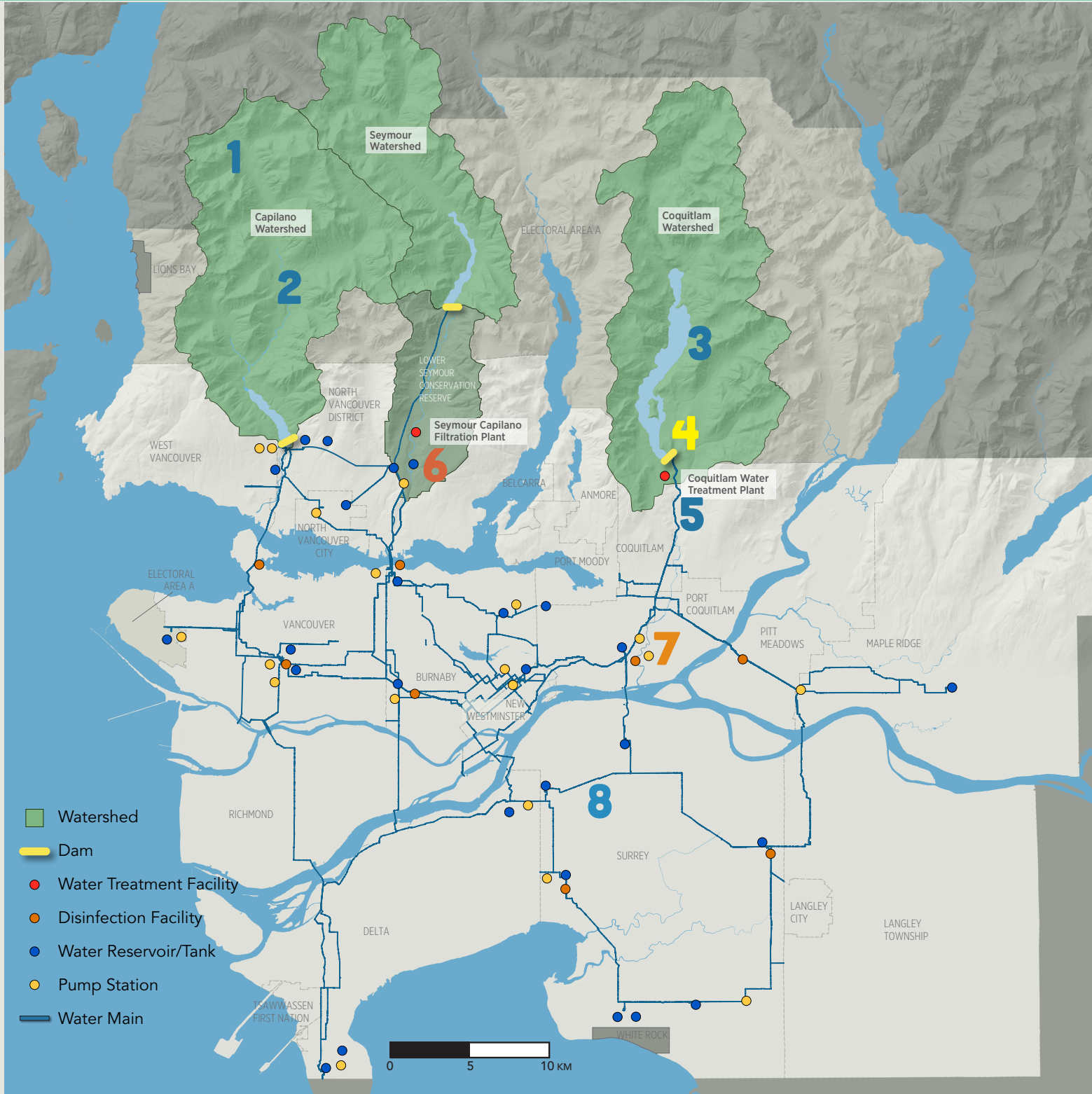
Our region's tap water is required to meet even stricter regulations than bottled water. It tastes great, is inexpensive, and doesn't contribute to plastic waste in landfills or oceans.

- 1** Water is supplied by melting snow and rainfall.
- 2** Rivers and streams run through watersheds.
- 3** Water is gathered in mountain reservoirs.
- 4** Dams control the flow of water leaving the reservoirs.
- 5** Metro Vancouver treats your drinking water to meet all provincial and federal standards.
- 6** Water is tested throughout the system to ensure it's clean and safe.
- 7** Pump stations and supply mains distribute water to municipalities.
- 8** Municipal water mains deliver water to homes and businesses.

TO YOUR TAP?



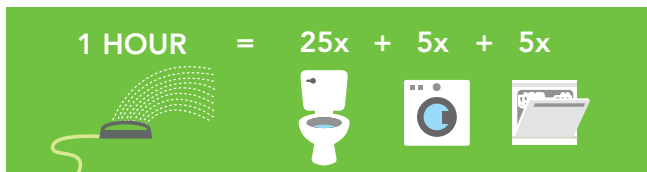
METRO VANCOUVER WATER SYSTEM MAP



METRO VANCOUVER AND ITS LOCAL GOVERNMENTS WORK TOGETHER TO SUPPLY CLEAN, SAFE DRINKING WATER TO THE REGION.

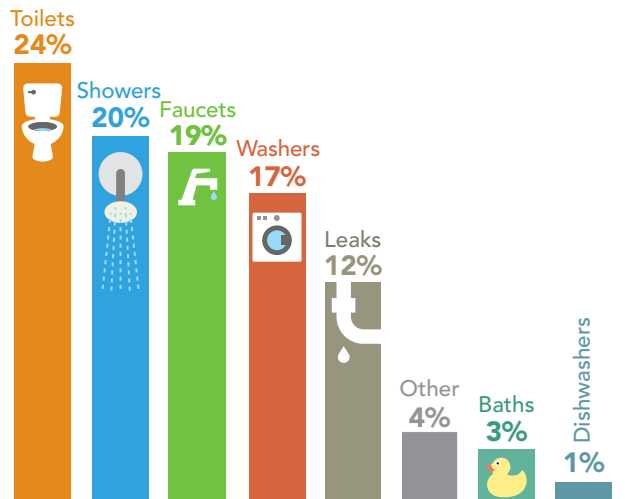
WHY DO WE CONSERVE WATER IN METRO VANCOUVER?

With all the rainfall in Metro Vancouver, it can be easy to forget that our treated drinking water doesn't just fall from the sky. While we receive our share of rain, our summers can be long and dry – and that's when we use the most water.



Water use in summer can increase by 50%, mostly for outdoor activities like lawn watering. Even one hour of sprinkling uses as much water as 25 toilet flushes, five loads of laundry, and five dishwasher loads combined.

THE MAIN USES OF WATER INDOORS



Does this match what you expected? What surprises you?

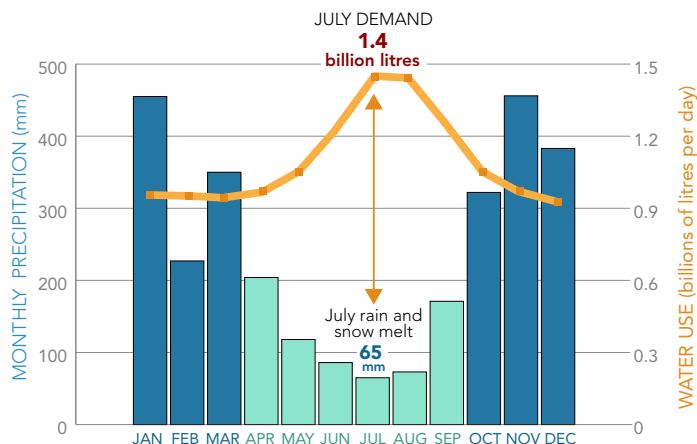
USE A LITTLE LESS, CARE A LITTLE MORE

Even indoors there are many ways to use less water. Here are just a few:

- Try shortening your shower by two minutes
- Turn off the tap when brushing your teeth
- Always run full loads in the dishwasher or washing machine
- Don't let the water run when washing dishes

Can you think of any other ways to use less water indoors or outside?

PRECIPITATION VS REGIONAL WATER USE



Rainfall refills the reservoirs during the winter and spring, but dry periods and higher water use in the summer lower the reservoirs' water levels – and our drinking water supply.

WE EACH USE ABOUT **270** LITRES OF DRINKING WATER INDOORS EVERY DAY

Find resources for teachers, students, and youth leaders to explore sustainability concepts and topics:

[Metro Vancouver School and Youth Leadership Programs](#)



metrovancover
SERVICES AND SOLUTIONS FOR A LIVABLE REGION