

Greater Vernon Water NEWSLETTER

Did you know that the Regional District of North Okanagan (RDNO) supplies and delivers your water? The City of Vernon provides water distribution operations and maintenance, and collects water utility payments on behalf of the RDNO.

We work together to bring you high-quality water, and we're always working to make it better. Visit rdno.ca/water for more information.

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF NORTH OKANAGAN

Tech Talks: Water Shut Offs

Do you know where the master water supply valve is in your home? If there's an emergency, like a burst pipe, you will need to turn the valve off quickly to avoid costly water damage.

Most master water supply valves are located in one of these places:

- Where the water supply pipe enters your home
- Near your clothes washer hook-up
- Near your water heater

Every house, apartment, and business should have a master water supply valve. When you find a valve, try this simple test to make sure you found the master water supply valve: turn it off briefly and see if all the water faucets in the building are shut off. If water still runs from the taps, try again.

Once you've found the right valve, mark it with bright paint to make it easy to spot. If the worst happens, and we hope it never does, you will be ready to turn the valve off quickly.



REGIONAL DISTRICT OF NORTH OKANAGAN

Fire-proof Your Property

Renovating this Spring? Did you know that certain materials can help your property be more resistant to fire? Here are a few ways to reduce your wildfire risk:

- Using rock mulches or hardscape near your home (within 1.5m).
- Picking materials such as Class-A asphalt shingles, slate or clay tile, metal, or cement and concrete products for roof construction.
- Choosing low growing plants and staggering their position when planting so that they are not in a row.
- Pruning the lower limbs of trees and ensuring branches do not touch structures.
- Clearing out gutters and keeping wood piles away from buildings.

Find the FireSmart plant list and other tips at www.firesmartcanada.ca

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF NORTH OKANAGAN

Xeriscape NOT Zero-scape

Xeriscaping is the practice of using plants that have low water needs or are native to the area. You can create beautiful, easy-care, drought-resistant landscapes using plants recommended by the Okanagan Xeriscape Association. Their online search tool allows you to pick plants by bloom colour, shade tolerance, and many other features. There are also many ground cover alternatives to a lawn like pink chintz thyme and white clover that don't need mowing and will help you save on water and maintenance.

Find the full plant list at rdno.ca/waterwiseplants.





CITY OF VERNON

Meet the Unflushables

Flushing certain items down the toilet causes problems for our wastewater system and our environment.

Cloggers belong in the trash

Items like wipes (baby wipes, personal hygiene wipes, cleaning wipes), paper towels, tampons + applicators, condoms, floss and even hair cause problems. These products don't break down quickly enough in the wastewater system (or at all) and can end up clogging our sewers and your pipes. Clogs are costly to remove and can lead to raw sewage overflows into the environment. Nobody wants that. Put these cloggers in the garbage where they belong.

Medications go back to a Pharmacy

Not all medications are removed in the wastewater treatment process and as a result, some chemicals may end up in the environment. Keep these pollutants out of our waterways by taking them back to a local pharmacy.

Where to put unflushables:

wipes • paper towels • hair • floss
tampons + applicators • condoms



Put in the
garbage

medications



Take back to
the pharmacy

CITY OF VERNON

Meet the Flushables



The only things that are okay to flush down the toilet are #1, #2, and toilet paper. Anything else wreaks havoc on our sewer system.

What if it says it's flushable?

Products that say they're flushable – like tampons and wipes – may make it down your toilet, but they might not make it through our sewers. There are currently no regulations to specify which products can be labelled "flushable". Cities around the world are trying to develop standards to more accurately label whether or not products are truly flushable. For now, put them in the trash.

Unlike toilet paper, wipes don't easily break down when flushed, even the ones labelled "flushable". Once flushed, wipes can clog sewer lines, pumps and pipes in homes, causing sewage overflows into residences and the environment. Put wipes in the garbage, not the toilet.

CITY OF VERNON

Learn more

Watch these quick videos that explain why it is so important to separate the unflushables:
www.vernon.ca/clogs.



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rdno.ca/water

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