



INFORMATION NOTICE

NARAMATA WATER SYSTEM

ROUTINE CLEANING AND INSPECTION OF STORAGE RESERVOIR

March 24, 2026

The Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen (RDOS) will be conducting a routine inspection and cleaning of the treated water storage reservoir at the Naramata Water Treatment Plant during the week of March 30, 2026.

The RDOS is providing this Information Notice because there is potential for a change in water quality during this work. People who would like additional protection, or have existing health concerns, may want to use a safe alternate source of water or boil their water during this period.

No interruptions in service are expected during this work; however, the RDOS is asking residents to conserve water during this time as a precaution. Customers may also notice elevated levels of chlorine in the water during this period. Monitoring will be ongoing to ensure that levels are maintained within an acceptable range.

The RDOS would also like to remind all business owners/operators (hotels, motels, bed and breakfasts, restaurants, wineries, stores) and public facilities operators that it is the responsibility of said establishments to notify their customers of this Information Notice.

For further information, please contact RDOS Public Works at 250-490-4135 or toll-free at 1-877-610-3737.

For after-hours water emergencies, please call RDOS Regional Dispatch at 250-490-4141.

Thank you for your cooperation.

RDOS Public Works

Frequently Asked Questions About Water Storage Reservoirs:

What is a storage reservoir?

A water storage reservoir is a large concrete or metal structure that is located at an elevated location within a community. Treated water is pumped from the Water Treatment Plant to fill the storage reservoirs, and when full, the reservoirs feed the distribution system via gravity. These reservoirs provide storage for times of peak demand and fire protection.

Why is cleaning of the storage reservoirs required?

The source water from Okanagan Lake undergoes treatment to remove microorganisms, but is not filtered. Any silt, sediments, algae or organic material present in the water settle out in the storage reservoirs and water distribution mains over time. These sediments typically do not pose a health risk but can affect the aesthetic quality of the water. Periodic cleaning removes materials that accumulate on the walls and floor of the storage reservoir and improves the water quality. In addition, draining the storage reservoir provides the opportunity to perform a structural assessment to determine if there are any cracks, leaks or signs of deterioration.

What is involved in the cleaning of a storage reservoir?

After the reservoir is isolated from the distribution system and drained, it is then pressure-washed and flushed of any material. All surfaces within the reservoir are disinfected through the application of a sprayed solution of sodium hypochlorite (liquid bleach and water). A water sample is taken and sent to a laboratory to ensure that the quality of the water is not compromised before the reservoir is brought back online.

Why is this Information Notice being provided?

Typically, a reservoir remains isolated until satisfactory laboratory bacteriological test results are received, which can take up to three days. Due to operational constraints, some of the Naramata reservoirs cannot remain removed from service for the time required for the laboratory to process the samples. In consultation with the Interior Health Authority (IHA), an Information Notice is issued to provide an opportunity for people who are seeking additional protection (such as those with health concerns) to make an informed decision regarding the steps they wish to take to safeguard their health.

In addition, this notice prevents the need for any planned water service interruptions to residences. The RDOS would like to encourage all customers to conserve water during this time.