

City of Cape Town restriction measures for municipal drinking water use

Summary table showing a comparison of all restriction levels

Visit www.capetown.gov.za/thinkwater for more details on current restrictions, and www.capetown.gov.za/tariffs for the official tariff documents

Restriction measures*	Restriction Level				
	No restriction (Water wise)	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Emergency response
Watering: hosepipe / sprinklers	Allowed	1 hour (Tuesdays and Saturdays)	1 hour (Saturdays)	Not allowed	Not allowed
Watering: drippers/drip line/soaker hose or bucket / watering can	Allowed	Allowed	Allowed	1 hour ² (Tuesdays and Saturdays)	Not allowed
Sports fields / parks (sprinklers)	Allowed	1 hour (Tuesdays and Fridays)	1 hour ³ (Tuesdays)	1 hour ³ (Tuesdays)	By exemption only
Swimming pools	Allowed subject to conditions ⁴	Allowed subject to conditions ⁴	- Topping up allowed subject to conditions ⁴ - No filling / refilling	- Topping up allowed subject to conditions ⁴ - No filling / refilling	No topping up No filling
Car washing (privately)	Allowed	Bucket or high pressure/ low volume cleaner	Bucket only	Not allowed	Not allowed
Informal car washes	Allowed	Bucket or high pressure/ low volume cleaner	Bucket only	Bucket only	Not allowed
Commercial car washes	Allowed ⁵	Allowed ⁵	Allowed ⁵	Allowed ⁵	Not allowed
Water features	Allowed	Allowed	Not allowed	Not allowed	Not allowed
Other	-	-	-	-	Additional emergency restrictions may be determined
Targeted water pressure ⁶ (bar)	>2.4	>2.4	>2.4	>1.2	>0.5

* Water regulations permanently in place

Additional regulations contained in the Water By-law apply at all times irrespective of the above restriction levels - see next page

Water regulations permanently in place

Water By-law regulations apply at all times irrespective of the water restriction level.

- Watering only allowed before 9:00 or after 18:00. This applies to watering with drinking water or borehole or well point water.
- Hoses used for watering or washing vehicles, boats and caravans must be fitted with a controlling device such as a sprayer or automatic self-closing device.
- Automated sprinkler systems must be able to be correctly positioned and be able to be adjusted to prevent water wastage.
- Boreholes and well point water must be used sparingly and efficiently.
- Commercial car wash industries must comply with industry best practice norms regarding water usage per car washed.
- All swimming pools must be covered by a pool cover to avoid evaporation when not in use.
- Automatic top up systems using a float valve fed from a potable water source to supply swimming pools and garden ponds is not allowed.
- No washing or hosing down of hard-surfaced or paved areas with municipal drinking water allowed. Water users, such as abattoirs, food processing industries, care facilities, animal shelters and other industries or facilities with special needs (health/safety related only) must apply for exemption.
- Potable water may not be used to dampen building sand and other building material to prevent it from being blown away.
- Taps and showers provided in public facilities must be fitted with demand type taps.
- Outdoor taps, except those on residential properties, must be secured to prevent unauthorised use.
- The maximum flow rate of any showerhead may not exceed 7 litres per minute.
- The maximum flow rate of any tap installed at a washbasin may not exceed 6 litres per minute.
- New or replaced toilet cisterns may not exceed 6 litres in capacity.

Please see the [Water By-law 2010 as amended 2018](#) – schedule 1 for the exact wording

Notes:

1. Restrictions measures only apply to the use municipal drinking water and not alternative water such as rain water, grey water or ground water. Ground water use must comply with National Department of Water and Sanitation regulations.
2. Drippers or soaker hose irrigation allowed for areas not exceeding 100 m² per property
3. High priority parks, public open spaces and sports fields and subject to any additional conditions determined by the Director: Water & Sanitation.
4. Topping up or filling of swimming pools with municipal drinking water is allowed subject to 1) the pool being covered with a non-permeable solid pool cover when not in use and 2) the recovery of backwash water and the use of rainwater for pool topping up where practically possible.
5. Commercial car washes may use municipal drinking water subject to industry best practice water conservation norms and the recycling of at least 50% of water used.
6. Targeted water network zone pressure as measured at the zone critical point at ground level. Zone pressure is expected to be lowest at the critical point, thus most of the zone should experience pressure higher than at the critical point.
7. Exemption from any restriction measure may be applied for as per the City of Cape Town water restriction exemption process.