

# DID YOU KNOW?

## THERE ARE PERMANENT REGULATIONS FOR WATER USE IN CAPE TOWN

Water By-law regulations are compulsory, even when there are no restrictions in place.

### Outdoor water use and groundwater

- Watering is only allowed before 09:00 or after 18:00 to avoid evaporation losses in the heat of the day. Hosepipes must be fitted with a controlling device such as a spray nozzle or automatic self-closing device, i.e. with a trigger to stop flow. This applies to watering with municipal drinking water (when permitted), and is also recommended for alternative water, e.g. borehole and well-point water.
- Automated sprinkler systems (where permitted) must be able to be correctly positioned and be able to be adjusted to prevent water wastage.
- Hosepipes used for washing vehicles, boats and caravans (when permitted) must be fitted with an automatic self-closing device.
- No hosing down of hard-surfaced or paved areas with municipal drinking water is 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.
- Outdoor taps, except those on residential properties, must be secured to prevent unauthorised use.
- The City recommends that alternative water sources like borehole and well-point water must also be used sparingly and efficiently.

### Efficiency of taps, toilets and showers

- The maximum flow rate of new and replaced showerheads 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.
- Handwash basins and showers provided at public facilities must be fitted with demand-type taps.

### Swimming pools

- 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 and fed from a municipal drinking water source to supply swimming pools and garden ponds are not allowed.

### Car washes

- Commercial car wash industries must comply with industry best-practice norms regarding water usage per car washed (e.g. recycling and re-using at least 50% of the water used).

### Construction sites

- Municipal drinking water may not be used to dampen building sand and other building material to prevent it from being blown away.

**See the Water By-law, 2010 as amended 2018**  
**- Schedule 1 for exact wording**

Know your water regulations and stick to them. For more information:  
[www.capetown.gov.za/waterregulations](http://www.capetown.gov.za/waterregulations)



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