CITY OF CAPE TOWN
ISIXEKO SASEKAPA
STAD KAAPSTAD

November 2026

City of Cape Town restriction measures for municipal drinking water use

Table showing applicable restriction measures for all restriction levels

Visit www.capetown.gov.za/thinkwater for more details on current restrictions or here for the official tariff documents

Restriction measures[1,2]	Restriction Level				
	Water wise	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Emergency response
Hosing down paved areas / hard surfaces Dampening building sand for wind protection	Not Allowed	Not Allowed	Not Allowed	Not Allowed	Not Allowed
Sprinklers	Allowed	1 hour: Tue & Sat	Not Allowed	Not Allowed	Not Allowed
Handheld hosepipe (trigger nozzle fitted)	Allowed	1 hour: Tue & Sat	1 hour: Tue & Sat	Not Allowed	Not Allowed
Drippers/drip line/soaker hose	Allowed	1 hour: Tue & Sat[3]	1 hour: Tue & Sat[3]	1 hour: Tue[3]	Not Allowed
Bucket / watering can	Allowed	Allowed	Allowed	1 hour: Tue & Sat	Not Allowed
Sports fields / parks (sprinklers)	Allowed	1 hour: Tue & Fri[4]	1 hour: Tue & Fri[4]	1 hour: Tue[4]	By exemption only
Watering notes: Max 1 hr/day in total irrespective of method and only before 9:00 or after 18:00.					
Swimming pools	Allowed	Allowed[5]	Topping up allowed[5] No filling / refilling	Topping up allowed[5] No filling / refilling	No topping up No filling / refilling
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	Allowed[6]	Allowed[6]	Allowed[6]	Not allowed
Water features	Allowed	Allowed	Not allowed	Not allowed	Not allowed
Other		-	-	-	Additional emergency restrictions may apply
Targeted water pressure[7] (meters)	>24 m	>24 m	>24 m	>12 m	>5 m
Max indoor use guideline (litres/person/day)	100	85	75	65	50

*See page 2 for notes

Water regulations permanently in place - Additional Water By-law regulations always apply - irrespective of the restriction level - see next page.

Water regulations permanently in place

Water By-law regulations always apply - irrespective of the water restriction level.

- Watering (irrigation) only allowed before 9:00 or after 18:00.
- Hosepipes 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 wellpoint water must be used sparingly and efficiently and watering only allowed before 9:00 or after 18:00.
- Boreholes and wellpoint water must be registered with the City and a sign as stipulated by the By-Law prominently displayed on the property.
- 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 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 supply on 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

Restriction notes:

[1] Restrictions measures only apply to municipal drinking water and not alternative water such as rainwater, grey water or ground water. An appropriate sign must be displayed on properties using alternative water. Ground water use must comply with National Department of Water and Sanitation regulations.

[2] Exemption from any restriction measure may be applied for as per the City of Cape Town water restriction exemption process.

[3] Drippers or soaker hose irrigation allowed for areas not exceeding 100 m^2 per property.

[4] Subject to any additional conditions as determined by the Water & Sanitation Directorate.

[5] Topping-up or filling of swimming pools with municipal drinking water is allowed subject to a) the pool being covered with a non-permeable solid pool cover when not in use and b) the recovery of backwash water and the use of rainwater for pool topping up where practically possible.

[6] 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.

[7] Targeted water network pressure as measured at the water 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.