



CITY OF CAPE TOWN
ISIXEKO SASEKAPA
STAD KAAPSTAD

LEVEL 6 WATER RESTRICTIONS FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

CITY OF CAPE TOWN - WATER & SANITATION

1 January 2018

These questions and answers have been prepared to help you comply with the Cape Town Level 6 water restrictions.



no drop
CERTIFICATION
water use efficiency
REGULATION



green drop
CERTIFICATION
waste water service
REGULATION



blue drop
CERTIFIED
Excellent drinking water quality
MANAGEMENT

The complete list of Level 6 restrictions can be viewed on www.capetown.gov.za/thinkwater

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Level 6 – what's new?

1. What are the main differences between Level 5 and Level 6 water restrictions?

Level 6 restrictions are stricter and consumers who use more municipal drinking water than specified limits - now lower than Level 5 - will be prioritised for enforcement (i.e. have water management devices installed).

Level 6 includes the following additional measures:

- All agricultural users must ensure that their monthly use of municipality drinking water is reduced by 60% compared with the corresponding period in 2015 (pre- drought).
 - All commercial properties must ensure their monthly use of municipal drinking water is reduced by 45% compared with the corresponding period in 2015 (pre-drought).
 - Flats and clusters (cluster developments) must use less than 10 500 litres per month per residential unit
 - Single residential properties must use less than 10 500 litres per month
 - The use of borehole water for outdoor purposes is discouraged in order to preserve groundwater resources.
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2. Where can I download a copy of Level 6 water restrictions?

You can visit www.capetown.gov.za/thinkwater.

3. Why was it necessary to introduce Level 6 restrictions?

The Level 6 water restrictions are aligned with the restrictions placed on the Western Cape Water Supply System by the national Department of Water and Sanitation. The City has set a per person water usage limit of 87 litres per day and an overall supply target of 500 million litres per day. It is essential to drive collective usage down to 500 million litres per day in order to preserve our limited water reserves under the current drought conditions and avoid Day Zero.

Most consumers have responded positively to the water crisis and have reduced water use. However, usage remains stubbornly high for a number of properties and consumers. Level 6 water restrictions is a response to water use levels not decreasing to acceptable levels.

4. How will the Level 6 usage-based fines work?

Residents who exceed specified limits will be issued with a warning letter, informing them that they are transgressing the Level 6 water restrictions. Thereafter an investigation will be done and a summons may be issued.

- 5. My usage was very high last month. However, it was based on an estimated reading, not an actual reading. Will I be fined?**

High estimated readings will be referred to the City's meter readers for confirmation. No fines will be issued on estimated readings.

- 6. If there are fines, will the fines be issued each month if the usage doesn't stay below the limit?**

Yes, the fine will be reissued for every month where usage is above the limit.

Residential properties

- 7. The usage target is 87 litres per person per day. This works out to less than 10 500 litres per month for most households. So why is the City prioritising enforcement for households using more than 10 500 litres of municipal drinking water per month?**

The City is prioritising enforcement for households with excessively high usage of municipal drinking water. Many of these households use well in excess of 10 500 litres per month.

In addition, there is no simple or inexpensive way to monitor the number of people in each household. Properties that have a higher number of occupants can legitimately be expected to use more water than properties with fewer occupants. Where the number of occupants on a property necessitates higher usage, they should [apply for an increase in quota](#).

A residential property with four occupants is expected to use at most 10 500 litres of per month. The 10 500 litres per month threshold for enforcement was set with this in mind.

- 8. What about large households? We have 9 people living on our property. Even if we each use 87 litres per day our usage will still be more than 10 500 litres per month. Will we be fined?**

Households may make representation through an affidavit to increase their allocation to beyond 10 500 litres per month, for instance, if there are many occupants on one property. But, all water usage per person must remain below 87 litres per person per day. This will be the consideration.

For more information, see the [Supply Limitation and Prosecution for Excessive Water Consumption](#).

- 9. Some months are 31 days while February is only 28 days. Will the 10 500 litres per month limit apply for all months? Or is it calculated according to the billing period?**

The calculation takes this into consideration. Billing periods vary in length, however, the calculation is based on a daily average. The 10 500 litres limit refers to an “average month” (i.e. number of days in the year divided by 12).

10. Sectional title owners who save water will be penalised if other owners in their complex continue to be wasteful. How will you address this?

The City is monitoring residential complexes and has information on the number of units in each complex. Cluster developments consuming more than 10 500 litres on average per residential unit per month will be identified and prioritised for enforcement. Depending on the circumstances, this may include fines and/or the installation of a water management device at the cost of the account holder. Cluster developments with units where the number of occupants necessitates higher usage are encouraged to [apply for a quota increase](#).

Body corporates and homeowners’ associations must encourage water saving and, where necessary, take action against unit holders who waste water. Where possible, sub-metering should be installed in order to monitor the usage of all individual units.

11. Installing a WMD (water management device) at a housing complex will unfairly affect everyone in the complex. I am doing my bit to save water but I know that some of my neighbours in the complex are wasting water.

The [Water By-law](#) allows the City, at the cost of the owner, to install or require the installation of metering or a WMD for any unit in the complex.

The City also has the authority to install a WMD (water management device) on the bulk meter that supplies water to the whole complex. However, this will only be done if cluster developments consume more than 10 500 litres of municipal drinking water per unit per month.

Non-residential customers

12. Is the 45% reduction to be calculated month-by-month compared to the same month last year? If not, then how?

No. Usage will be compared to the corresponding period in 2015. For example, usage measured as at end January 2018 will be compared to the corresponding period in January 2015 pre-drought. Fines will be issued for every month that the 45% reduction is not achieved.

However, fines will not be issued based on estimated readings (only on actual readings) or where a problem occurred with the meter.

13. Due to a labour dispute, my business was closed for half of November 2015. This year it will be impossible to consume 45% less than we did in November 2015.

Consumers may motivate, through an affidavit, to increase their allocation to beyond the 45% reduction limit. For more information, visit [Commercial water restrictions explained](#).

14. What can non-residential customers (e.g. commercial and industrial sector) do to save?

Education and awareness is key. Educate staff, customers and tenants and put up water-saving notices in bathrooms and prominent places. Establish water usage targets and put up a display that monitors your use.

Managers of shopping centres, office blocks and industrial parks should encourage tenants to save water, check for leaks, consider using alternative water sources, install water efficient fittings and, where possible, install sub-metering to know which tenants are wasting water.

Managers of health spas, gyms and hotels should install efficient fittings and take special care to educate staff, guests or members.

For more information, visit [Save water in your business or organisation](#).

General

15. Who is responsible for complying with water restrictions: the landlord or the tenant?

It depends on the restriction. According to the [Water By-law](#), the property owner is responsible for all water installations on the property, while the consumer is responsible for any wastage or abuse of water.

16. Do any other water regulations apply?

Yes, all water regulations contained in the Water By-law must be complied with. Find out more on [Know your water regulations](#).

17. What can you do?

Please immediately:

- Cut your total water use to less than 87 litres, per person, per day

- Use municipal drinking water only for essential washing, cooking and drinking purposes, and only use indoors
 - Stop the use of borehole water for outdoor purposes
 - [Check and fix all leaks on your property.](#)
 - Adhere to all water restrictions and the [Water By-law](#)
 - Visit our webpage www.capetown.gov.za/thinkwater for further information.
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18. Do you have any water saving tips?

Our top ways to save water:

- Adjust your private stopcock to reduce the water flow to your property.
- Collect your shower, bath and basin water and re-use it to flush your toilet.
- Cut your stop-start showers to one minute and switch to a low-flow showerhead.
- Monitor your water use at home and at your work, school or organisation.
- Only flush the toilet when necessary. Don't use it as a dustbin.
- Use a cup instead of running taps when brushing teeth, shaving, drinking, etc.
- Use borehole/wellpoint water for toilet flushing
- Wait for a full load before running washing machines and dishwashers. The rinse water from some washing machines can be re-used for the next wash cycle.

For more tips at www.capetown.gov.za/thinkwater.

19. I would like to put up water saving posters at my school. Where can I get these?

Please see our water resources on www.capetown.gov.za/thinkwater

20. What is the City doing to save water?

We have implemented a wide range of measures to save water, including:

- Creating awareness for water saving, visiting schools and communicating with businesses and residents.
 - Finding and repairing underground water leaks
 - Increasing the number of first line response teams to attend to water leaks and pipe bursts.
 - Implementing aggressive pressure reduction programmes to reduce the flow of water and water leaks.
 - Offering plumbing repairs, free of charge, for indigent households.
 - Promoting the use of treated effluent (recycled water) or borehole water instead of drinking water for irrigation purposes.
 - Reducing water losses from our systems.
 - Replacing ageing water mains.
 - Retrofitting council buildings with water efficient plumbing.
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21. Our dams are nearly empty. Water restrictions have clearly failed. How effective are water restrictions?

Saving water and fixing leaks are critically important during times of drought. Current water usage is substantially less than in previous years.

22. How does the City police restrictions?

Water inspectors monitor compliance with the restriction measures as well as the Water By-law and issue spot fines where applicable.

We monitor adherence with Level 6 usage limits via the City's water billing system.

Residents are normally our most vigilant enforcers and we want you to report anyone who does not adhere to water restrictions using the following methods:

- Call [0860 103 089](tel:0860103089) (choose option 2: water related faults)
- Email water@capetown.gov.za
- Online through our [Service Requests](#) tool
- SMS 31373 (max of 160 characters)
- Whatsapp 063 407 3699

These reports are used to target different areas for enforcement initiatives. In addition, the City uses water billing information to target high water users.

23. What are the penalties?

Currently, we issue spot fines of up to R5 000 in terms of the Water By-law. Households using more than 10 500 litres of water per month can be summonsed to appear in court which may lead to a fine, and/or have a water management device installed - the cost of the meter will be billed to the owner's municipal account. Fines can be reissued if the usage remains more than 10 500 litres of water per month.

24. Am I allowed to wash my car?

No, washing of vehicles, caravans or boats with municipal drinking water is not allowed. This applies to private washing, as well as formal and informal car washes.

Cars must be washed with non-drinking water, or cleaned with waterless products or dry steam cleaning processes. We suggest that you wash your vehicle less often and write on the vehicle's bodywork 'I'm saving water' to show your support.

25. I have reported a water leak. Why hasn't anyone come to fix it?

The city services a pipe network of close to 11 000 km (the equivalent distance from here to Australia), to which 650 000 properties are connected. Every year approximately 3 000 burst water mains and more than 30 000 leaking water connections are repaired. Old pipes are more likely to leak or burst and the City has an extensive pipe replacement project underway. Although pipe replacement is expensive, many kilometers are replaced each year and this has resulted in a dramatic reduction in pipe bursts.

We have increased the number of repair teams available in order to repair leaks as soon as possible. However, the number of repair teams is limited.

Once a leak is reported, a first response team will assess the leak or burst and this information is used to assign an appropriately equipped repair team as well as to prioritise the repair. We prioritise large pipe bursts and leaks over smaller bursts and leaks. Our teams attend to most large pipe bursts within one hour and repaired as soon as possible, however, smaller leaks may take some time to be repaired. A large burst can waste more water in a few seconds than a small burst or leak can over a period of a week. We often receive complaints about bursts and leaks being forgotten. However, the reality is mostly that repair teams are simply prioritising larger bursts elsewhere in the city.

26. How do I apply for an exemption?

See our website for how to [apply for exemption from water restrictions](#). Exemptions will only be approved in exceptional cases where a well-motivated application is received.

27. I need to apply for exemption for more than one property. Do I need to submit an application for each property or can I submit a single application?

You can submit one application for multiple properties - as long as the application is relevant to all properties. For example, a nursery business with multiple outlets across the city can submit a single application. Please include a list of all erf numbers and addresses as an annexure.

28. What is the difference between the exemption process and the affidavit process?

Exemption process: This applies to [applying for an exemption from water restrictions](#), e.g. to use municipal drinking water to wash a hard surface in the food processing industry.

Affidavit process: This applies to increasing your water allocation beyond what is specified in the water restrictions level (e.g. increasing water use for a domestic property beyond 10 500 litres per month). See [Supply Limitation and Prosecution for Excessive Water Consumption](#).

29. What is normal usage and how much water should I be using? How do I know how much water I am using?

Due to the current drought crisis, you need to limit your total water use to less than 87 litres per day.

So, a two-person household should use under 5.5 kilolitres (kl) of municipal drinking water during a billing cycle and a four-person household should use at most 10.5 kl of municipal drinking water during a billing cycle, etc.

Remember: A five-minute shower can use between 40 litres and 70 litres, and flushing a toilet uses between 6 and 21 litres, depending on the size of the cistern. One shower and five flushes of an average-sized toilet will push a person over their daily allowance, and this does not take into account other necessities such as drinking, cooking, and washing of clothes and dishes. As such, the City recommends limiting time under the shower to one minute and flushing the toilet only when absolutely necessary.

Before water restrictions, most households used between 6 and 20 kl a month (200 - 650 litres per day). However, houses with large gardens and swimming pools generally use much more water. For more information see the Consumers section of the [Water Services and the Cape Town Urban Water Cycle booklet](#).

Your monthly usage is printed on your municipal account in kilolitres. One kilolitre is a 1 000 litres. Your meter reading and usage can also be monitored via [e-Services](#). Find out [how to register](#).

Usage is dependent on the interval between meter readings. An estimate is generated if your meter is not read in a specific month. Alternatively, you can read your own meter and keep track of your use.

Remember that your water and sewerage bill depends on your usage. The price of water increases the more you use. This is in order to encourage water saving. Find out more on [tariffs](#).

30. Experience and common sense show us that rich people, who are also the heaviest water users, will be able to afford the punitive water tariffs and therefore will have no incentive to save water. Poor people, on the other hand, will not be able to afford them, so are likely to bear the brunt of the higher prices or having to cope with less water. What steps are being taken to address this?

The first 6 kilolitres of water is free for (registered) indigent households. In addition, the lower steps of the tariff structure have low increases, while the higher steps are subject to higher percentage increases, thus assisting the poor and those who save water. Informal settlement residents receive all water for free.

31. A reduction in water use will affect the City's income from water and sewerage. How will this affect the council's operations?

In addition to tariff step increases designed to recover the loss in income/revenue due to the reduction in billed consumption, a drought charge has been proposed to come into effect February 2018 and remain in place until 2021. Combined, these should ensure Council's

operations can continue to address normal and special drought-related activities and projects.

32. I understand why water tariffs increase. But why do sanitation tariffs also increase?

Water tariffs increase (especially for large water users) to encourage water saving.

Sanitation tariffs increase for cost recovery reasons. Sanitation charges are based on water use as most water used ultimately ends up in the sewers. Due to the restrictions we expect to sell less water. So, we need to increase sanitation tariffs to compensate as many sanitation costs, such as staff and maintenance costs, are fixed and do not decrease with the expected lower sewage volumes. Please note that sanitation charges are capped at 35 kl.

33. If there's a significant decrease in the flow of water through the city's sewerage system, will this affect its operation? Are there any associated health risks?

Most of the water saving comes from a reduction in irrigation or other "luxury" uses such as swimming pools. It is therefore not expected that there will be any serious effect on the sewerage system. A reduction in leaks (e.g. leaking toilets) will result in lower sewer volumes. In most cases, this is a good thing. To date, there hasn't been a problem with the functioning of our sewerage systems as a result of reduced flows and no health risks have been reported. However, this is continually monitored.

34. Will Level 6 restrictions affect spray parks?

Spray parks are not allowed to operate under Level 6 restrictions.

35. What special arrangements (if any) are being made to ensure the maintenance of the City's golf courses? Have you quantified the amount of water used to water golf courses?

Almost all golf courses in the City are irrigated using either recycled (treated effluent) water from wastewater treatment plants, or water from boreholes and other resources.

36. Will you continue to use municipal trucks to spray road surfaces during the period of restrictions? If so, why? How much water do they consume?

Municipal street-cleaning uses non-drinking water.

37. What steps is the Council, as a water consumer itself, taking to ensure it reduces its usage?

The City continuously identifies its large water use points and engages with the relevant directorates to determine areas of water saving, for example the retro-fitting programme which entails the removal of automatic flushing urinals in its buildings. All council directorates are also expected and bound to comply with the restrictions in their water-related activities.

38. What steps are you expecting provincial consumers – such as schools and hospitals – to take to reduce use?

The water restriction notice applies to all users. Council has embarked on a partnership with schools to help reduce usage through its awareness and education programme on water saving and the training of school caretakers to fix leaks. See more water saving tips for [businesses and organisations](#).

39. Who are the 10 biggest water consumers in the City of Cape Town?

Consumption figures for individual consumers are confidential and cannot be released to the public. However, the largest users in the city typically include developments such as hospitals, large shopping centres and office blocks, institutions and certain industries. All households are expected to reduce usage during water restrictions. Large users (>10 000 kℓ/annum) are required to conduct annual water audits, as outlined in the Water By-law, and systems are in place to monitor their use.

40. Can owners of boats rinse and flush their motors after fishing?

Yes, flushing of motors is permitted within the ambit of the restriction measures. Where possible, use non-drinking water.

41. Can someone who uses borehole water to water grass and plants also use their hosepipe to wash their car?

No. We strongly discourage the use of borehole water for outdoor purposes in order to preserve groundwater resources.

42. Are notices in three languages being provided at e.g. cash offices, libraries, clinics etc.?

Notices will be displayed at all City buildings, other public spaces and posted on [our website](#).

43. Are car valet services compelled to use trigger nozzles on hoses?

Municipal drinking water must not be used to wash vehicles or boats. Non-drinking water or waterless cleaning products should be used. Non-drinking water must be used efficiently to avoid wastage.

44. Who do you fine if Council is contravening the water restrictions?

This matter will be dealt with in accordance with City procedures.

45. Is it illegal to wash down the forecourt of a petrol station?

Washing down petrol station forecourts is not allowed with municipal drinking water.

46. If a person has a visible leak on their property and is not in a position to fix it, what can be done? Does Council have a system in place whereby a plumber will be sent to repair the leak and bill the tenant?

It is the owner's responsibility to employ the services of a registered plumbing contractor to attend to the problem, at the owner's cost. However, the City does have a programme where the properties of qualifying indigent households are repaired on a once-off basis.

47. I have hired a company to power wash my driveway, is this allowed under the current watering restrictions?

No, power washing driveways with drinking water is not allowed.

48. My charity was planning a fundraising carwash event. Can we still proceed?

Yes, only if waterless cleaning products are used.

49. I work in the poorer areas of the City and I regularly see large volumes of water running to waste in these areas where the occupants cannot afford to repair the leaks. What has the City done and what are they doing about this?

The City has a project in place in terms of its policies, to repair leaks at indigent properties and install a water management device in order to control the water usage to prevent further leaks and water wastage.

50. Why must I save water when I see people in informal settlements wasting water which they don't pay for?

It is important that all residents help save water. The City is sensitising residents, from all areas, about the need to use water sparingly. Water usage from all areas (including informal settlements) is being monitored.

Water use per person in informal settlements is generally much lower than that of formal residential areas. Overall, only about 5% of Cape Town's water is consumed in informal areas. See the Consumers section of the [Water Services and the Cape Town Urban Water Cycle](#) for a breakdown of water use per user type.

51. What is the City doing about the homeless people using the City's fire hydrants to wash vehicles?

Using fire hydrants, by anyone, for anything other than their intended purpose without permission is an illegal act (refer to section 55 of the [Water By-law](#)) so is water wastage (refer to section 37 of the Water By-law) and such contraventions will be dealt with in accordance with existing legal processes in terms of section 64 of the Water By-law. If you notice this, please contact the customer line on 0860 103 089/SMS 31373/Whatsapp 063 407 3699 or email water@capetown.gov.za.

52. Can my kids use the sprinkler in the backyard?

No, you are not allowed to use sprinklers with municipal drinking water. The use of borehole/wellpoint water for outdoor purposes is strongly discouraged in order to preserve groundwater resources in the current dire drought situation.

53. Can I pull my vehicle along the side of a river and wash it with bucket water on the river bank? If not, then why not?

No, the cumulative impact would threaten the ecological life of the system. Rivers are considered part of a stormwater system, so abstraction without permission and disturbance of the river banks are acts in direct violation of the [Stormwater Management By-law](#).

54. May paved areas be hosed down with municipal tap water?

No.

55. I want to hire a water slide. Do I need an exemption or does the person hiring it out to me need one?

You are not allowed to use water slides, portable or temporary pools.

Irrigation and watering

56. How do the stricter Level 6 water restrictions affect watering/irrigation?

Watering or irrigating with municipal drinking water is not allowed. The use of borehole/wellpoint water for outdoor purposes is discouraged in order to preserve groundwater resources.

57. Can I irrigate using buckets/irrigation system/hosepipe if connected to borehole water or an alternative water source?

Yes. However, the use of borehole and wellpoint water for outdoor purposes is discouraged. Correct signage must be displayed for all alternative water sources (boreholes, wellpoints, grey water systems and rain water tanks). For more information on [residential](#) and [commercial](#) registration and signage, see Signage when using alternative water sources.

Please use groundwater sources sparingly, avoid wastage and evaporation and don't water in the heat of the day or in windy conditions.

58. If I have been granted Level 4b water restrictions exemption do I need to reapply?

All exemptions granted under levels 2, 3 and 4 have been withdrawn. Exemptions issued under levels 4b and 5 restrictions still apply, subject to review with the possibility of being revoked. Special users, such as nurseries, customers involved in agricultural activities or with historical gardens may apply for an exemption.

59. I've noticed my neighbour is watering using an irrigation system/hosepipe. What should I do?

Watering with an irrigation system or hosepipe **using municipal drinking water** is not allowed. You could speak with your neighbour to see if they are aware of the watering restrictions. If they aren't aware, direct them to the City's website. If you have concerns please, contact the customer line on 0860 103 089 / SMS 31373 (max of 160 characters), Whatsapp 063 407 3699, email water@capetown.gov.za or submit an online request through our [Service Requests](#) tool.

However, please note that use of hosepipes and irrigation systems connected to alternative water sources (such as grey water systems and rainwater tanks) is allowed. However, the use of borehole water is discouraged. Check if your neighbour has the correct signage for alternative water use. Boreholes and wellpoints need to be registered and the sign should have a registration number. For more information on [residential](#) and [commercial](#) registration and signage, see Signage when using alternative water sources..

60. Why is the city still watering along roads?

Some transport routes (e.g. the Integrated Rapid Transit (IRT) bus routes on the West Coast) are supplied with recycled water.

61. Do boreholes need to be registered? Do you pay for registration and the borehole sign?

Wellpoints and boreholes must be registered. The registration is free and signage is provided free on registration. Find out more on [registering a borehole](#).

There is no charge for using borehole or wellpoint water. However, we discourage the use groundwater for outdoor purposes.

62. I have applied to register my borehole/wellpoint, but haven't received my official, free display sign from the City. Will I be fined?

Proof of your application for registration will be emailed to you. This can be printed and kept until you receive your official (free) display sign as required by the latest water restrictions.

There is currently a waiting period for the signs during this very busy period. Find out [how to register](#).

63. Do I need to apply for permission in order to sink a new borehole or wellpoint and will I be charged for using this water?

You or your contractor will need to apply. Once installed, the borehole or wellpoint must be registered. There is no charge for using borehole or wellpoint water.

See our website pages:

- [Register a borehole](#)
 - [Apply to sink a borehole or wellpoint or use an alternative source of water](#)
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64. Do I need a display sign if I am using bath water to water my lawn?

Yes, when using greywater you need to put up a sign stating that you are using non-drinking water for irrigation clearly visible from a public thoroughfare.

For more information on [residential](#) signage, see Signage when using alternative water sources..

Download the [Non-drinking water – Do not drink sign](#).

65. Can I use my own non-drinking water sign?

It depends on what type of alternative water you are using:

Yes, if you are using grey water, rainwater tanks, spring water or treated effluent water.

However, boreholes and wellpoints must be registered (or re-registered) and the official sign (provided free on registration) with a registration number must be used.

66. Can I use bath water to water my garden at any time or only on watering days?

There are no restrictions on watering times when using grey water such as bath water. However, you must display visible signage stating that you are using non-drinking water to water your garden. This must be clearly visible from a public thoroughfare. For more information on [residential](#) signage, see Signage when using alternative water sources.

67. Can historical/museum gardens be exempt from the water restrictions?

Exemptions are only granted in exceptional circumstances. Find out more on [applying for exemption from water restrictions](#).

68. How can I report an irrigation violation?

By any of the following methods:

- Call 0860 103 089 (choose option 2: water related faults)
 - Email water@capetown.gov.za
 - Online through our [Service Requests](#) tool.
 - SMS 31373 (max of 160 characters)
 - Whatsapp 063 407 3699
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69. Are there watering restrictions for agriculture or vegetable gardens?

Under Level 6 restrictions agricultural use is restricted to 60% below usage compared with the corresponding period in 2015 (pre-drought).

However, no irrigation or watering using municipal drinking water is allowed. This also applies to vegetable gardens and agricultural within the Cape Town area. Vegetable gardens for schools, churches, homes for the elderly, shelters for homeless, homes for mentally or physically challenged are considered special needs homes, and may apply for exemption. However, bear in mind that almost all commercial farms have access to non-drinking water sources.

70. I live on agricultural land; do watering restrictions apply to me?

The Water By-law with the corresponding restriction measures applies to all properties located within the City of Cape Town Municipality's jurisdiction. All agricultural uses must

ensure that their monthly use of municipal drinking water is reduced by 60% compared to the corresponding period in 2015 (pre-drought).

71. Why is irrigation prohibited?

It is the one of the largest categories of water use in Cape Town.

Swimming pools

72. Can I fill and top up my swimming pool?

No, swimming pools may not be filled or topped up with municipal drinking water - even if fitted with a pool cover. This includes filling new pools or refilling an existing pool after a repair. This applies to private and public pools, including pools at clubs, businesses and institutions.

73. Can I use a chemical/liquid pool cover?

Private swimming pools may not be topped up with municipal drinking water irrespective of whether a pool cover is used.

A chemical/liquid pool cover may be used to help limit evaporation from the pool. However, this type of pool cover may not be as effective as a conventional pool cover, especially in windy areas.
