



# Water-saving tips to help avoid Day Zero

Day Zero is when the dam levels reach 13,5% and when almost all of the taps in the city will be turned off and we will have to queue for water.

The more you save, the better our chances to avoid running out of water.

## Toilet flushing and sanitation



**Only flush the toilet everywhere when necessary.** Let the 'yellow mellow' at home, work, school, gym, shops, etc.



**Place a full glass bottle in your cistern** to reduce each flush to a maximum of 6 litres (if you have no choice but to use municipal drinking water).



**Flush with greywater only** (laundry, bath and shower water) or with rain, borehole or well-point water.



**Use less toilet paper** to minimise the risk of sewer blockages and do not use your toilet as a dustbin.



**Close toilet stopcock** (angle valve). You will save municipal drinking water.



**Use bleach or disinfectant** to regularly **sanitise toilets and surrounding areas** and keep hands sanitised to prevent health risks.

**Please note:** The use of water from alternative sources has some health and hygiene risks you must avoid. Keep hands and surface areas sanitised and disinfected. Don't keep greywater for longer than 24 hours. Keep water containers in a safe place as children can drown in them.

## Body washing and personal hygiene



**Take very short, stop-start showers.** Wet your body. Turn off the tap. Soap. Rinse quickly.



**Don't let taps run for too long or at full flow.** Use a cup for shaving, brushing teeth, etc.



No shower? **Take a sponge bath.** Use minimal water in a basin, bowl or washtub ('waskom').



**Use waterless hand sanitiser** instead of washing your hands.



**Don't let water run while you wait for it to heat.** If possible, use cold water or heat your water for a sponge bath, in a kettle or on the stove.



**Collect as much washing water as possible and re-use for flushing toilets** as a priority. Excess greywater can be used for plants or washing vehicles.

## Laundry and dishes

**Only wash** what is **absolutely necessary**.

**Wait for a full load** before running washing machines and dishwashers. Some washing machine models let you use final rinse water for the next washing cycle.

**Hand washing laundry** uses less water than many washing machines, especially older models with no eco cycles. Check your machine's usage.

**Use minimum soap** to save on rinse water. **Re-use rinse water** for the next wash wherever possible.

**Re-use water** for **flushing toilets** as a priority.

## Plumbing fittings and fixtures

**Fit flow restrictors** on indoor taps to reduce the flow rate to less than 6 litres per minute, as per the City's Water By-law.

**Install low-flow showerheads** or **insert a flow restrictor** in the showerhead to reduce flow to a maximum of 10 litres per minute, as per the City's Water By-law.

**Reduce water pressure to your property** by turning your stopcock lower and/or installing a flow restrictor on the main pipe connection from your meter.

**Find and fix leaks** on your property. Leaks are such a waste of our precious water.

## Gardens and outdoor areas

Use a **broom** and **harvested rainwater** to clean hard outdoor surfaces.

**Blanket your topsoil with a layer of mulch** to reduce evaporation, e.g. grass clippings, shredded leaves, bark chips or straw.

Modify your gutters and downpipes to **collect rainwater in containers**.

## Swimming pools

**Fit a pool cover** which significantly reduces evaporation. **Recycle backwash water**.

**Harvest rainwater** and direct it to your pool for top-ups by attaching pipes or plastic sleeves to your gutters.

Absolutely no municipal drinking water is to be used for pools, ponds or water features.

## Other key ways to save

**Use much less wherever you go** - the municipal drinking water you use in other places comes from the same dam system, so please use the absolute minimum water in and around Cape Town.

Use **minimal water for food preparation**, e.g. don't run water to defrost or rinse food.

Place a **container in every sink, basin, bath and shower to capture all water for re-use**.

**Note:** dirty, greasy water from dishwashing is not suitable for re-use. Containers in showers should be large enough to collect all shower water - a bucket hardly does the job. Water is heavy, so use jugs to flush your toilet with greywater.

**Harvest rainwater** as much as you can. Store in sealed containers in a cool place, and do not use for drinking, cooking or bathing, as per the City's Water By-law.

## What you need in your water-saving kit

- 'Waskom' for use in showers and baths to collect as much water as possible.
- Buckets or jugs to transfer water from 'waskom' to toilet or outside.
- Containers to catch water in all basins and sinks for re-use.
- Bleach or disinfectant to keep the toilet area sanitised.
- Pipes or plastic sleeves for your gutters to harvest rainwater for pool water top-ups or water tank collection.
- Food-grade sterilising liquid to clean fruit and vegetables.
- 1-ply toilet paper to prevent sewage blockages.
- Waterless hand sanitiser.

**SHARE THIS** information with others, and encourage them to use as little water as possible. Don't be shy to remind the wasters of our crisis.

Visit [www.capetown.gov.za/thinkwater](http://www.capetown.gov.za/thinkwater) for more information and guidelines.