



STELLENBOSCH

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MUNICIPAL NOTICE 18/2026

STELLENBOSCH MUNICIPALITY - WATER SAVING NOTICE **PRECAUTIONARY** MEASURES I.T.O. WATER USE

The Municipality is aware of recent social media messages on dam levels at the Municipality. Residents are advised to please not distribute any non-official communication since this is an offence and creates unnecessary panic.

The Municipality receives the bulk of its water from the Western Cape Water Supply System, consisting of the Theewaterskloof, Berg River, Steenbras (Upper and Lower), Wemmershoek and Voelvllei Dams. Due to the recent multiple fires within the Cape Winelands District, Overberg and Stellenbosch Municipalities, untreated water from the Municipality's Ida's Valley Dam was utilised in the fire-fighting efforts, but the Municipality still produces ample potable water from the Paradyskloof Water Treatment works, which is fed from the Theewaterskloof Dam, to serve the Municipal areas.

The Municipality's Water Department has been continuously monitoring local water levels. As communicated in our Notice to residents on the 29th January 2026, the community was informed of the increasing strain on our water resources as a result of the extreme fires experienced in recent weeks. Following a review of the current water supply status, it has become necessary to request the cooperation of all residents to further reduce water usage. Your support is essential in helping to protect and stabilise our water resources.

The Municipality appreciates the community's cooperation during this challenging period. Collective efforts to reduce water consumption will assist in easing pressure on our water systems and help ensure a reliable supply for all. The Municipality will continue to undertake the daily monitoring of consumption to advise on the imposition of restrictions, if any.

We would like to caution residents from creating undue panic. All residents of the Western Cape needs to increase their efforts to help reduce water use. Residents are encouraged to please assist in the below water-saving efforts, to avert a situation of instituting formal water restrictions and higher tariffs associated thereto.

Please consider the following WATER-SAVING MEASURES:

1. Limit showers to 2 minutes where possible.
2. Turn off taps when not in use, including while brushing teeth or washing dishes.
3. Repair leaking taps and pipes promptly.
4. Only operate washing machines and dishwashers with full loads.
5. Re-use greywater for outdoor areas, such as gardens and lawns.
6. Use environmentally friendly soaps and detergents when greywater is re-used.
7. Water gardens early in the morning or late in the evening to minimise evaporation.

8. Watering/irrigation should be done with borehole or non-drinking water from the municipal supply please. This would apply to gardens, lawns, flower beds and other plants, vegetable gardens, sports fields, parks and other open spaces. Please consider rather using a bucket or watering can and avoid the use of hosepipes or

automatic sprinkler systems. Residents are urged to limit their watering to the mornings and evenings.

9. Golf courses, sports facilities, parks, schools, learning institutions, nurseries, customers involved in agricultural activities, users with historical gardens requested to please use non-potable or borehole water for irrigation purposes. No new landscaping or sports fields to be established until further notice.
10. All properties where alternative, non-potable water resources are used (e.g. rain water harvesting, grey water re-use, treated effluent water, spring water, wellpoints and boreholes), should ensure that they display the appropriate signage to this effect, clearly visible from a public thoroughfare. All wellpoints and boreholes should be used efficiently to avoid wastage and evaporation.
11. Please avoid washing or hosing down of hard-surfaced or paved areas with municipality supply water (except for health purposes).
12. Ornamental water fountains/water features should be operated only by recycling the water or if using non-potable water.
13. Washing (using municipal supply water) of vehicles and boats should be avoided please, unless if using a bucket.
14. Commercial car wash entities should use non-potable water, recycle water and please comply with industry best practice norms regarding water usage per car washed. Informal car washes should use non-potable water where possible, and only buckets and not hosepipes please.
15. All automatic flushing urinals should be turned off in all buildings during times when such buildings are normally vacated by the public and/or staff other than cleaning staff.
16. Customers are strongly advised to install water efficient parts, fittings and technologies to minimise water use at all taps, showerheads and other plumbing components in public places and adhere to Water By-law

requirements.

17. Manual topping up of private swimming pools should please be avoided and, where possible, fitted with a pool cover. Automatic top-up systems should be avoided for private or public swimming pools.
18. The use of portable play pools should cease please until further notice.
19. Spray parks and related activities are to be strictly managed to minimise water wastage.
20. For users supplied with water in terms of special contracts (notarial deeds, water service intermediaries or water service providers), the contract conditions shall apply in terms of a water saving scenario.

Customers should note that water pressure may be reduced by the Municipality to limit water usage and wastage. Enquiries can be directed to the *Let's Fix It* Whatsapp Service 076 951 0768 or contact 021 808 8215/021 808 8343/ 021 808 8957/ 021 808 8953/ 021 808 8106