



Direktoraat: Infrastruktuurdienste

Directorate: Infrastructure Services

0769510768
☎ 021-808 8345/ 8957 / 8953 / 8215 / 8345 / 8106/8107/8215

epos/email:engineering.services@stellenbosch.gov.za

MUNICIPAL NOTICE 57/2026

INVESTIGATION OF STORMWATER INGRESS INTO THE SEWAGE NETWORKS DURING RAINY CONDITIONS

Dear Resident,

During heavy rain conditions, such that we have experienced on Sunday, 19 April 2026, it was found that the sewage/sanitation networks were overloaded, resulting in manhole lids lifting and causing sewage flooding into streets and house areas. This is caused by stormwater, swimming pool outlets, etc., being illegally connected to the sewage networks. The sewage flow increased by 500% during the peak hour of the cloud burst on Sunday. The connection of any stormwater systems, such as rain gutter down pipes, area draining, swimming pool backwash, drains to the sewage systems is illegal in terms of the Water Services By-Law of the Municipality:

"Part 4: Drainage installations

121. Installation of drainage installations

An owner must provide and maintain his drainage installation at his own expense, unless the installation constitutes a basic sanitation facility as determined by the municipality, and except where otherwise approved by the municipality, must ensure that the installation is situated within the boundary of his premises.

(1)

.....

(6) *No rainwater or stormwater, and no effluent other than an effluent that has been approved by the municipality, may be discharged into a drainage installation."*

"159 Unauthorised and illegal discharges

(4) No person may discharge or cause or permit the discharge of –

(a) any substance, including storm water, other than sewage, to be discharged into a drainage installation;

(b) of water from any swimming pool directly or indirectly over any road or into a gutter, storm water drain, watercourse, open ground or private premises other than the premises of the owner of such swimming pool;

(c) water from artificial fountains, reservoirs or swimming pools situated on premises into a drainage installation, without the approval of the municipality and subject to the payment of relevant charges and such conditions as the municipality may impose;

(d)"

Note that unlike the City of Cape Town regulations, Stellenbosch Municipality does not allow swimming pool backwash water to be evacuated into the sewer(drainage) system. All backwash water must be guided into the stormwater system.

Residents are requested to urgently remove unlawful connections from the sewage network to ensure that the sanitation process volume and cost can be limited and the unsafe condition of sewage spillages be drastically reduced.

The municipality will be conducting smoke tests where a smoke generator will be coupled with the sewage network and the escape of smoke detected, indicating that a rainwater system was coupled to the sewage system. Building - and Wastewater Inspectors will be inspecting houses for this possibility. Note that a resident may be fined where such illegal connection has been found.

We request residents to please ensure that rainwater does not enter the sewage networks due to the resultant flooding that may occur and the increase cost of the wastewater treatment works having to cater for the sharp increase of sewage to be treated. Your cooperation and assistance will be highly appreciated, especially by those residents of houses that were flooded by sewage overflows