

NOTICE REGARDING WATER RESTRICTIONS AND THE IMPLEMENTATION OF DECREASED WATER TARIFFS



Although the level of the Voëlvei Dam has improved substantially compared with that of August last year, the Swartland Municipal Council decided on 7 September 2018 to retain the Level 6 water restrictions applicable since 1 February 2018 until the Department of Water Affairs confirms that these may be relaxed.

In accordance with the Department's instructions, steps should still be taken to achieve a 45% saving in domestic water consumption and a 60% saving in agricultural consumption.

DECREASED WATER TARIFFS

In order to bring about financial relief to consumers, the Council approved the implementation of decreased water tariffs from 1 September 2018. These tariffs will apply to the services provided during September 2018, the accounts for which must be paid by 30 September 2018, and will therefore apply retrospectively to water consumption during September.

The new water sliding-scale tariffs, excluding VAT, are as follows:

	Tariff per unit (kl)
0-4 kl	R 6.06
5-10 kl	R 10.40
11-15 kl	R 18.98
16-20 kl	R 19.63
21-25 kl	R 35.67
26-50 kl	R 74.33
51 kl & more	R 102.58

The tariffs applicable to businesses (R25.00 plus VAT from the first kilolitre of consumption) and to schools, government institutions and sports clubs (R30.00 plus VAT from the first kilolitre of consumption) remain unchanged.

BASIC WATER LEVY

The R99.00 levy (including VAT) appearing in water accounts is a basic fee applicable to all consumers since 1 July 2018 to enable the Municipality to maintain and expand its water sources, water networks and large-scale water-service infrastructure sustainably. The levy applies in addition to the water sliding-scale tariffs to cover the Municipality's operational costs, such as those involved in the purchase of water.

The Municipality has been selling water to consumers at a budgeted loss for several years. The drought conditions and the higher tariffs at which the Municipality has had to buy water from 1 July 2018, however, have necessitated the implementation of the levy. Some local authorities, such as those of the City of Cape Town, Mossel Bay, the Overstrand and Saldanha Bay, have been charging levies amounting to much more than the Municipality's levy of R99.00 for several years. Swartland Municipality could not charge a levy until it had phased out, over years, the free water that it had been providing its clients.

The Municipality advertised the levy for public comment in the local media during April 2018 as part of its draft budget (which includes tariffs). The budget documents were posted in municipal offices and libraries and on its website and social media from 29 March up to and including 3 May 2018 to comply with legal requirements. No objections were received and the budget was therefore finally approved by the end of May for implementation from 1 July 2018.

RESTRICTIONS APPLICABLE TO ALL CUSTOMERS

- All water users are required to use **no more than 50 litres** of municipal drinking water per person per day in total irrespective of whether you are at home, work or elsewhere.
- Watering/irrigation with municipal drinking water is prohibited. This includes watering/irrigation of flower beds, lawns, vegetables, agricultural crops, other plants, sports fields, golf courses, schools, learning institution facilities, nurseries, parks and other open spaces. Nurseries and customers involved in agricultural activities or with historical gardens may apply for exemption.
- 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), must display signage to this effect clearly visible from a public thoroughfare. Users of these sources may irrigate only before 08:00 and after 18:00 for a maximum of one hour, but are strongly encouraged not to water/irrigate within seven days after rainfall that provided adequate saturation.
- Where signage is displayed that boreholes are used for watering/irrigation purposes, owners are required to report such boreholes and its yield (if known) with the Municipality.
- Washing or hosing down of hard surfaces, walls, roofs or paved areas with municipal drinking water is prohibited. Users, such as abattoirs, food processing industries, care facilities, animal shelters and other industries or facilities with special needs may apply for exemption.
- Topping up (manually or automatically) or filling of swimming pools with municipal drinking water is prohibited, even if fitted with pool cover. This includes the filling of new pools or the refilling of an existing pool after a repair. This applies to all pools including pools at clubs, businesses and institutions.
- The use of water from municipal potable water mains for cooling off of any roof area is prohibited.
- The use of municipal drinking water for ornamental water fountains or water features is prohibited.
- Consumers are encouraged to flush toilets (manually using a bucket) with greywater, rainwater or other non-drinking water.

RESTRICTIONS APPLICABLE TO RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMERS

- Single residential properties (domestic households) consuming more than 20 000 litres per month will be fined. – See NOTES below for applicable fine.
- Cluster developments (e.g. flats and housing complexes) consuming more than an average of 20 000 litres per residential unit per month will be fined.
- Washing of vehicles, trailers, caravans or boats using municipal drinking water is prohibited. These must be washed with non-drinking water or waterless products or dry steam cleaning processes.
- The use of portable or any temporary play pools, including slip and slide inflatables are prohibited.
- Customers are strongly advised to install water efficient parts, fittings and technologies to minimise water use at all taps, showerheads and other plumbing components.

RESTRICTIONS APPLICABLE TO NON-RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMERS

- The use of municipal drinking water for agricultural purposes, e.g. to irrigate crops or to feed livestock, is prohibited. All agricultural users of municipal drinking water for household purposes must ensure that their monthly consumption is reduced by 45% compared to consumption for the previous year.
- Washing of vehicles (including taxis), trailers, caravans or boats with municipal drinking water is prohibited. Vehicles, trailers, caravans and boats should be washed with non-drinking water or waterless products or dry steam cleaning processes. This applies to both formal and informal car washes.
- The use of fitted pool covers for public swimming pools is strongly encouraged where practically possible.
- Automatic top-up systems for swimming pools are prohibited.
- The operation of spray parks is prohibited.
- Customers/facilities must install water efficient parts, fittings and technologies to minimise water use at all taps, showerheads and other plumbing components in public places.
- Golf courses, sports facilities, parks, schools and learning institutions are not allowed to establish any new landscaping or sports fields, except if irrigated only with non-drinking water.
- For users supplied with water in terms of special contract (e.g. notarial deeds or water services providers) the contract conditions shall apply.

NOTES:

- (1) Failure to comply with any of the restrictions will constitute an offence in terms of the Municipality's By-law relating to Water Supply, Sanitation Services and Industrial Effluent, 2014. The accused will be liable to an admission of guilt fine of R2 000,00 and/or, in accordance with section 69(3), the installation of any restrictive device (that regulates daily water consumption) at premises where non-compliance occurs. The costs thereof will be billed to the relevant account holder. Customers with good reason for higher consumption need to provide the Municipality with adequate motivation to justify their higher consumption.
- (2) All exemptions granted under the Level 5 and Level 6 restrictions remain valid.

Water pressure and flow rate may be reduced to below applicable regulations or standard requirements to limit water leaks, and may cause intermittent water supply.

MUNICIPAL SWIMMING POOLS

Municipal swimming pools will reopen to the public on 1 October 2018 in terms of a decision taken by the Council.

J J SCHOLTZ
MUNICIPAL MANAGER

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- For a public summary of the Swartland Critical Water Shortage Disaster Plan as well as all updates and documents on the water crisis, see our special water webpage (<http://water.swartland.org.za/>) or visit our Facebook page (www.facebook.com/swartlandmunicipality).
- Report wastage at 022 487 9400 or 022 487 9411 or e-mail us at swartlandmun@swartland.org.za.
- To register boreholes, contact 022 487 9400 (Esmari Steenkamp).