

NATIONAL WATER WEEK



water sustaining lives enabling growth

Water scarcity - less water than we think

Did you know that South Africa is regarded as a water scarce country? Well, we are – in fact, we have an average of 450mm rain per year and a high rate of evaporation. If we are not careful, we will soon reach the limit of our available water supply. Conserving water is the responsibility of all in South Africa – every drop counts!

Water quality:

The South African Constitution states that everyone has the right to have access to an environment that is not harmful to their health or well-being. This includes a constant supply of clean, safe drinking water. Safe drinking water is water that is acceptable for humans to drink and use for other domestic purposes such as food preparation and bathing.

Our drinking water comes from two sources: surface water (rainfall and its runoff into rivers or dams), or groundwater (water that has collected in underground stores or aquifers). It is therefore very important that we do not pollute our drinking water sources.

For more information, contact the Department of
Water Affairs and Forestry

Toll-free: 0800 200 200

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water & forestry

Department:
Water Affairs and Forestry
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

WATER FACTS & TIPS

FACTS:

- A dripping tap (one drop per second), wastes up to 30 litres of water an hour? This means that you are wasting 10 000 litres of water each year!
- If you close the tap while you are brushing your teeth, you can save up to 20 litres of water per month.
- When you leave the tap running whilst shaving, you can waste up to 45 litres of water.
- By using a rain-water harvesting tank, you can collect rain-water from your roof and use it for irrigation?
- Taking a five-minute shower a day, instead of a bath, could save up to 400 litres of water a week.
- You can reduce your electricity bill by not filling your kettle to the brim but rather filling it with just enough water for your needs.
- A leaking toilet can waste up to 100 000 litres of water in one year.

TIPS:

- To check if your toilet leaks, add a few drops of dye into the cistern, if the colour seeps into the bowl, you have a leak. A leaking toilet can waste up to 30 litres of water an hour.
- Only water your garden before 10:00 in the morning or after 16:00 in the evening.
- Wash your car using two buckets of water. This can save up to 300 litres of water each time you wash your car.
- Make use of "gray water" for your garden. "Gray water" is the water left behind after you had a bath or after washing the dishes.
- Use low-flow showerheads, dual-flush toilet mechanisms and water-efficient washing machines.
- Every time you boil an egg, save the cooled water for your houseplants. They'll benefit from the nutrients released from the shell.
- Clear invasive alien plants on your property - plant indigenous plants.

For schools, business and industry:

- Turn off the water supply at your school after hours and on week-ends. Schools doing this can save up to R5 000 on their water bill each year.
- Do not use hosepipes to wash down forecourts and paved areas. Use a bucket and a broom.
- Regularly check the plumbing for leaks.
- Maintain toilet fittings and valves regularly. Valves should flush for just 2 – 4 seconds and urinals for 6 – 8 seconds.

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