



With continued dry weather and drought conditions Singleton and the surrounding region enter Level 2 Water Restrictions from 1 March 2020. Water restrictions apply to all water users who use drinking water sourced from Singleton Council, we are asking you to stay waterwise. Cutting back on your water use not only saves water, but also energy, money and helps the environment. Here are the answers to some of our frequently asked questions regarding **residential water restrictions**.

ABOUT WATER USE IN THE HOME

Do water restrictions affect the use of water inside my home?

Water restriction Levels 1, 2 and 3 primarily apply to outdoor water usage, however we encourage residents to help water saving efforts by reducing showers to 4 minutes, fixing leaks around the home or waiting for a full load before doing the washing, we can all continue to play our part and conserve our precious resource

How do I calculate my daily water usage?

Step 1: Read your meter (e.g. 2,582,602L).

Step 2: Read your meter one week later (e.g. 2,584,612L).

Step 3: Subtract your first read from your second read (e.g. 2,584,604L – 2,582,602L).

Step 4: Divide the answer you found in Step 3 by the number of people in your household (e.g. based on 3 person family, 2,010L / 3 people = 670L p/person p/week).

Step 5: Find your daily consumption by dividing the answer you found in Step 4 by 7 (e.g. 670L / 7 = 96L p/person p/day).

You can read more about reading your water meter on Council's website.

How long can I shower for?

Singleton Council encourages efficient water use when showering – aim to shower for four (4) minutes or less. That is the length of a pop song on the radio or set the timer on your phone. There are a number of 4 Minute Tune playlists available on Google Play Music and Spotify.

Can I use my evaporative air conditioner/cooler? Are there any restrictions?

Yes, evaporative air conditioners/coolers can be used at home and there are no restrictions on their use at level 2 water restrictions. However, the use of evaporative air conditioners/coolers is restricted from level 4 water restrictions.

BUILDINGS AND HARDSURFACES

What is a hard surface?

Houses, walls, windows, driveways, patios, concrete surfaces and paths etc are all considered to be hard surfaces and in most cases are not considered to be high in prioritising water for essential purposes.

All levels of restrictions ban this water use activity, unless it is for maintaining health, hygiene and safety for people reasons

Can I use water to wash my windows?

You can wash your windows using a bucket and hand held hose fitted with a trigger nozzle or high pressure water cleaning equipment. Consideration to the conditions and time of day should be given.

Can I use a high pressure cleaning device?

Unless it is for maintaining health, hygiene and safety reasons, paths, driveways, outdoor decks, concrete or pavement, walls, roofing, gutters and vehicles **cannot** be cleaned with high pressure cleaning equipment.

When cleaning outdoor areas for health, hygiene and safety reasons a water efficient high pressure cleaning device is acceptable.

GARDENS AND OUTDOORS

When can I water my lawn and gardens?

Under level 2 water restrictions you can water your garden and lawn every second day as per the odds and evens system, between 6pm – 9am and 6pm – 9pm during the summer months and between 7am – 10am and 4pm – 7pm in the winter months.

How do I know which day I can water my garden and lawn?

The odds and evens system is based on the street number of the property and the numbered day of the month. If the property street number:

- is an odd number you can water in accordance with the restrictions on odd numbered days of the month
- is an even number you can water in accordance with the restrictions on even numbered days of the month
- has a range of numbers then it should be treated as the first number in the range, for example 12 to 15 Smith Street can water on even numbered days of the month, in accordance with the restrictions,
- has no street number, then it should be treated as an even property and you can water on even numbered days of the month, in accordance with the restrictions, and
- has two street numbers (e.g. corner blocks) then it should be treated as an even property. For example, if the property has the addresses 1 Smith Street and 1 John Street then water use, in accordance with restrictions, can occur on even days.



All properties can water in accordance with the restriction levels on the 29th February and the 31st of months with 31 days.

What are the summer and winter months?

Restriction levels for watering activities including gardens and lawns are subject to seasonal variations for summer and winter. For all restriction levels:

- **Summer** means the months of October, November, December, January, February, and March
- **Winter** means the months of April, May, June, July, August and September

What devices or systems are permitted?

The following methods are permitted under Level 2 water restrictions:

- Buckets and watering cans,
- Hand-held hoses fitted with an on/off trigger style nozzle,
- Non-fixed sprinklers
- Fixed timing (programmable) water efficient drip and/or smart irrigation systems
- Micro sprays or soaker hoses that are fitted with a timer.

Can I still water my garden or lawn with a soaker hose?

Yes, under level 2 water restrictions you can water your garden and lawn with a soaker hose. You must comply with the restricted watering hours, odds and evens system watering days and the hose must be connected to a timer. Soaker hoses are considered in the same category as non-fixed sprinklers.

Can I use sprinklers?

Yes, under level 2 water restrictions you can water your garden and lawn with a sprinkler, both fixed and non-fixed. You must comply with the restricted watering hours, odds and evens system watering days and the sprinkler system or garden hose must be connected to a timer.

What is the definition of a sprinkler, fixed sprinkler and non-fixed sprinkler?

A sprinkler is a device used to spray water to irrigate the garden and/or lawn. A fixed sprinkler is part of a permanent watering systems of pop-up sprinklers, usually connected to a timer. A non-fixed sprinkler is a device that can be attached to the end of a garden hose and moved about the lawn and garden.

What is a watering system?

A watering system is any permanent programmable watering system installed to irrigate the garden and/or lawn, including micro sprays, misting systems, drip systems and pop-up sprinklers. These permanent watering systems must be connected to a timer.

What does water unattended mean?

Water unattended means you can't leave a watering system, sprinkler, soaker hose, garden tap etc running while not at home.



I have a water feature, can I still run it at anytime?

Yes, under Level 2 water restrictions you can run and top up a water feature. However, Council encourages all water features installed, recirculates the water reducing the need for topping up with drinking water.

I have a gardener or contractor who works in my garden, do they have to comply with water restrictions?

Yes, any gardener or landscaper contracted to look after your garden will have to comply with the residential water restriction levels and activities in place across Singleton's water supply area. However, you may apply for a [special variation](#) if they are unable to comply with the restricted watering times.

Can I still lay new turf around my house?

Yes, watering of new turf is permitted for one (1) week after laying. After this time, level 2 water restrictions on watering of lawns applies.

Can I use greywater at home?

Yes, use of greywater is permitted under every level of water restrictions.

Collecting greywater from laundries, sinks, and showers can hold harmful bacteria and high salt levels as well as other chemicals. With care, and in line with the [NSW Guidelines for Greywater Reuse in Sewered, Single Household Residential Premises](#), greywater can be used on gardens and lawns.

A greywater diversion device whilst not encouraged is permissible if it complies with the NSW Greywater Guidelines (as above), including the requirement for subsurface irrigation only.

Am I allowed to clean my garbage bin at anytime?

Yes, there should not be any compromise for maintaining health, hygiene and safety for people therefore cleaning your garbage bins is allowed. Provided you are using a hose fitted with a trigger nozzle and do this on the grass whenever possible.

PETS

Can I still wash my pet under Level 2 water restrictions?

Wash and rinse your pet with a bucket or hand held hose fitted with an trigger (on/off) nozzle at anytime on any day. Consideration should be given to the conditions and washing your pet on a grassed area.

What about cleaning pet enclosures?

Yes, there should not be any compromise for maintaining health, hygiene and safety for people or pets. Therefore, cleaning outdoor areas, such as animal pens or similar, for these reasons are also acceptable. You are encouraged to clean animal pens with water efficient high-pressure washers.



POOLS AND SPAS

What are the rules around topping up swimming pools and spas?

Under level 2 water restrictions, the topping up of existing swimming pools and spas is permitted from 6am to 9am and 6pm to 8pm by a hand held hose or a hose fixed to a timer. Do not leave the hose unattended with the end in the pool, this will prevent backflow from occurring and protect our water supply. There should always be an air gap between the end of the hose and the water in the pool.

Council encourages the use of pool covers. Pool covers can help reduce evaporation by up to 90% and are a very effective way of reducing the amount of water needed to top up.

Can my child still play in an inflatable pool?

Yes under level 2 water restrictions inflatable and temporary children's pools are permitted with a hand held hose fitted with trigger (on/off) nozzle or other device that can be shut off instantly or fixed to a timer.

Don't forget pools with 30cm of water or more require fencing to protect the safety of children and Council approval is required for pools and spas over 2000L in capacity

RAINWATER TANKS

Can I still water outdoors if I have a rainwater tank or bore?

Yes. The water restrictions are for the use of our potable water supply (town water). If the restrictions say 'Not permitted' for a particular use, this means that Council's potable water supply cannot be used for this purpose.

Rainwater tanks that are filled by Council's potable water supply are subject to the same water restrictions as town water. Water from another source (such as bore or rain water) can be used, however water is a finite resource and should be used wisely regardless of where it is sourced from.

Signage must be installed at premises identifying non-potable water is in use (such as recycled or bore water). Council will monitor and may conduct inspections and water quality testing to confirm the water source being used.

VEHICLES, BOATS AND CARAVANS

Can I wash my car at home?

Yes. Under Level 2 water restrictions washing of privately owned vehicles, caravans, trailers, boats, boat motors and jet skis at home is allowed with a bucket and rinsed with a trigger hose between 9am and 12pm. They must be washed on a grassed surface. If washed on a driveway for example, it would be considered a hard surface and this water use activity is banned. Water efficient pressure washers may also be used.

This includes the flushing of boat motors after use, however motors do not need to be flushed if being used daily.



WATER SAVING TIPS

What are some simple tips my family can use to save water at home?

Council encourages everyone to be 'wise with our water'. Some top tips include:

- Take shorter showers (aim for five minutes or less) and use a water efficient shower head.
- Always run your washing machine on full load (where you can save up to 10 litres of water each wash).
- Wait until you have a full dishwasher before running it.
- Turn the tap off while brushing your teeth.
- Use greywater from laundries, sinks, and showers on gardens and lawn if safe to do so (in line with the [NSW Guidelines for Greywater Reuse in Sewered, Single Household Residential Premises](#)).
- Fix leaky taps and pipes you have put off doing to stop water loss.
- For outside, mulch, mulch and more mulch to help keep garden soils moist, and plant drought tolerant.

Singleton Council has collaborated with Smart Approved WaterMark to provide a range of top tips and resources to help you save water inside and outside your home. More tips and resources are available our website.

FURTHER INFORMATION

For more information on water restrictions and your obligations visit www.singleton.nsw.gov.au/586/Water-Restrictions or contact Council on:

T. 02 6578 7290

E. council@singleton.nsw.gov.au

W. www.singleton.nsw.gov.au

