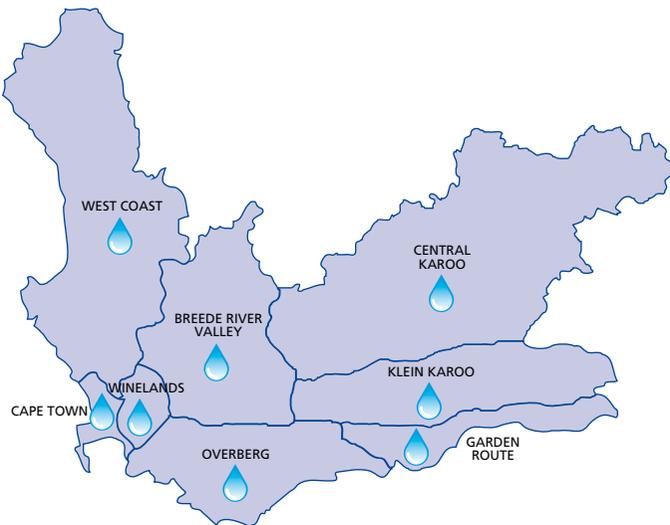


## Areas where groundwater can be found in the Western Cape

Groundwater can be found in most areas in the Western Cape. The availability, yield and quality of groundwater can be assessed by your borehole/wellpoint contractor.



 **Be Smart!**

 **Save our City!**

 **Save our Environment!**

 **Save Potable Water!**

 **Be part of the solution and install a borehole or wellpoint today!**

## Useful information

### CITY OF CAPE TOWN CALL CENTRE

Tel: 0860 103 089

Water conservation tips and information, alternative water usage, bursts, blockages and water by-law transgressions

### BOREHOLE WATER ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

Tel: 011 447 0851

For a list of borehole contractors in your area

### DEPARTMENT OF WATER AFFAIRS

Tel: 012 336 8125/8046

Aquifer/groundwater quality information

### KIRSTENBOSCH BOTANICAL GARDEN

Tel: 021 799 8783

Water-wise gardening tips/information

### WATER BY-LAW

Government Gazette 6378: 01/09/06

### OTHER PAMPHLETS IN THIS RANGE:

- Introduction to alternative water resources (pamphlet no 1 of 4)
- Greywater re-use (pamphlet no 3 of 4)
- Rainwater harvesting (pamphlet no 4 of 4)

City of Cape Town Call Centre:  
0860 103 089

SMS: 31373 (up to 160 characters)

E-mail: [WaterTOC@capetown.gov.za](mailto:WaterTOC@capetown.gov.za)



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# WATER AND SANITATION



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## BOREHOLES/WELLPOINTS



Alternative Water Resources

Pamphlet no 2 of 4



**Be part of the solution**  
**Our water, our pride**

## Introduction

Water is a scarce resource in our country and it has been predicted that the Western Cape will be the first region to run out of water unless steps are taken to manage the demand for water more efficiently.

Installing a wellpoint or borehole will help offset the use of potable water whilst still maintaining a beautiful garden.

## Why should you install a borehole/wellpoint?

Our gardens consume between 30% and 50% of all domestic water used. The application of groundwater by individual water users, particularly in residential areas, impacts on all water infrastructures.

A borehole/wellpoint will:

- Save valuable potable water
- Save you money
- Relieve the strain on our natural environment and
- Add value to your property

## Groundwater and the City's water by-laws/restrictions

Groundwater is effectively freely available to everyone in Cape Town and no municipal water by-laws/restrictions apply to this water when used for irrigation purposes. However, the homeowner must display signage, visible from the street, which identifies it as borehole, or non-potable, water.

Households that use water from wellpoints or boreholes are encouraged to keep to the watering times (no watering between the hours of 10:00 and 16:00,) as per the City's Water By-Law; Schedule 2 of the by-law.

- 1 The installation of a borehole takes less than a week and a wellpoint takes a few hours to install.
- 2 The quality of groundwater is perfectly safe for use on lawns and plants.
- 3 The homeowner must display signage that indicates the use of a borehole or wellpoint.
- 4 You may link your existing irrigation system to your new borehole/wellpoint.

## The difference between a borehole/wellpoint

Where geological formations are favourable and the water table is relatively close to the surface a wellpoint may be installed.

Wellpoint yields are sufficient for the irrigation of small to medium sized residential gardens. It consists of a shallow shaft with a depth not exceeding 8-10 m. It is more cost effective and quicker to install than a borehole.

Boreholes are more likely to be considered for grassed sportsfields, parks, golf courses, industrial, agricultural or high-income households with large and well-watered gardens. Boreholes can have a depth of about 30 m to 100 m or more. Because of this it is very costly and should be fully researched beforehand.

## The effects of boreholes/wellpoints on our current groundwater resources

An investigation was done by the City on 14 000 existing boreholes at the maximum use for irrigation purposes. The study found that they had no appreciable effect on the groundwater table level. A factor contributing to this is the continual recharging of Cape Town's groundwater table during the rainy season.



## The quality of groundwater in the City of Cape Town

With reference to salinity levels most of the City of Cape Town area underlain by the Cape Flats Aquifer, as well as the Atlantis area, is suitable for borehole/wellpoint abstraction intended for garden irrigation.

In some areas there is dissolved iron in the groundwater that will cause staining of walls, but it is still perfectly safe for use on lawns and plants and it will not affect the soil quality.

## The linkage of your existing irrigation system to your new borehole/wellpoint

You may link your borehole/wellpoint to your existing irrigation system provided that the water volume is sufficient for the operation of the irrigation system. Should this not be the case, various options are available to rectify this. Your borehole/wellpoint contractor will assess this and discuss recommendations. However, it would be necessary to ensure your system has an adequate filter fitted.

Please note that according to the Water By-law; Schedule 2, no interconnection is allowed between the borehole/wellpoint and the domestic reticulation system.

## The use of groundwater to fill up your pool

Once the borehole/wellpoint installation has been completed your contractor can test the water quality to check if it is suitable to fill/top up your pool.

## The installation of a borehole/wellpoint

A wellpoint installation takes approximately 2-4 hours whereas a borehole installation can take about 3-5 days depending also on your choice of borehole/wellpoint contractor.