

Simplified STAGE 1 Water Restrictions apply across Melbourne

1. Watering Gardens, Lawns and Playing Surfaces

You can water a residential or commercial garden or lawn area; or a public garden or lawn area; or general or particular playing surface:

- with a hand-held hose, bucket or watering can at any time; or
- by means of a watering system but only on alternate days between the hours of 6 am and 10 am and 6 pm and 10 pm.

Or you can choose to water a public garden or lawn area or a general or particular playing surface in accordance with an approved Water Use Plan.

2. Using Water for Aesthetic Purposes

You can fill or top up a fountain or water feature - only if it recirculates the water - using a hand-held hose, bucket or watering can or an automatic water top up device.

New or existing ponds or lakes with a capacity of 2,000 litres or less can only be filled or topped up using a hand-held hose, watering can or bucket.

A new or existing pond or lake with a capacity of greater than 2,000 litres can only be filled or topped up in accordance with an approved Water Use Plan.

3. Using Water in Swimming Pools and Toys

A new or existing residential or commercial pool or spa or public pool or spa with a capacity of 2,000 litres or less can only be filled using a hand-held hose, bucket or watering can or automatic water top up device.

A new or existing residential or commercial pool or spa or public pool or spa with a capacity of greater than 2,000 litres can only be filled in accordance with an approved Water Use Plan.

You can only top up a new or existing residential or commercial pool or spa; or public pool or spa, of any size using a hand-held hose, bucket or watering can; or an automatic water top up device.

A mobile spa can only be filled or topped up in accordance with an approved Water Use Plan that is obtained by the owner of the mobile spa.

Water cannot be used in or for the use of a hose-connected water toy at any time.

4. Storing or Transporting Water

A dam or tank can be filled or topped up only where the water in the dam or tank is to be used:

- for fire fighting, stock watering or other public health purposes but then only to the extent which it is reasonably necessary for those purposes; or
- for domestic purposes inside a dwelling; or
- for any other use of water permitted by means of a hand-held hose under Stage 1 restrictions; or

in accordance with an approved Water Use Plan.

You can fill or top up a water tanker only if:

- the relevant water business has granted a mobile water tanker permit to the operator of that tanker; and
- the tanker is supplying the water to be used for:
 - fire fighting, stock watering or other public health purposes but then only to the extent which it is reasonably necessary for those purposes; or
 - domestic purposes inside a dwelling; or
 - any other use of water permitted by means of a hand-held hose under Stage 1 restrictions.

5. Cleaning Vehicles with Water

You can use water to clean a vehicle using a high pressure water cleaning device; or if such a device is not available, a hand-held hose, bucket or watering can. You can also wash vehicles:

- at a commercial car wash (see below for more detail);
- at the premises of or by a motor vehicle dealer, repairer or detailer (see below for more detail)
- in the case of a vehicle for mass transportation, in accordance with an approved Water Use Plan.

Water can be used to clean inside a food transport vehicle if it is necessary, either to avoid contamination of the vehicle's contents or to ensure public health or safety, but only using a high pressure water cleaning device or a hand-held hose, bucket or watering can.

Motor vehicle dealer, repairer or detailer

Water can be used at the premises of or by a motor vehicle dealer, repairer or detailer to clean a vehicle using a high pressure water cleaning device; a commercial car wash; a bucket or watering can; or in accordance with an approved Water Use Plan.

Commercial car washes

Water can be used to wash vehicles at a commercial car wash however:

- for those car washes built prior to 1 July 2012, no more than 100 litres of water can be used for each vehicle washed; and
- for those car washes built on or after 1 July 2012, no more than 70 litres of water can be used for each vehicle washed; or
- the use is in accordance with an approved Water Use Plan.

Boat motors

Water can be used to flush the inboard or outboard motor of a boat or other vessel using a suitable receptacle filled by a hand-held hose or a flushing device connected to a hose if the tap is turned off immediately after flushing is complete.

6. Using Water for Other Cleaning or Maintenance Purposes (including windows)

You cannot use water to clean hard surfaces or building facades (including windows) except:

- in the course of construction or renovation (but only as permitted as described under Construction or renovation, below); or
- as a result of an accident, fire, health hazard, safety hazard or other emergency and then only using a high pressure water cleaning device; or if such a device is not available, a hand-held hose, bucket or watering can, or
- in the case of building facades (including windows), for any other type of cleaning (not referred to above) and then **only by means of a bucket or watering can.**

Dust suppression

Water can only be used to suppress dust if the dust is causing or is likely to cause a health or environmental hazard. In these instances you can use a hand-held hose, bucket or watering can; a water tanker filled or topped up in accordance with restrictions; or apply for an approved Water Use Plan.

Construction or renovation

Water can be used in the course of construction only:

- by means of a high pressure cleaning device, hand-held hose, bucket or watering can; or
- for the suppression of dust as per above;
- for construction equipment which requires a water supply for its safe and efficient operation; or
- if required in the normal course of initial testing or flushing of: pipes; or other works.

7. Using Water for Commercial Production of Plants and/or Animals:

You can water a commercial or Council plant nursery; or a commercial market garden using a hand-held hose, bucket or watering can at any time; or a watering system at any time.

Water can be used for animal husbandry purposes including drinking by animals or birds; cleaning animals or birds; and cleaning pens, yards and cages using a hand-held hose or bucket. Water can be used for cooling a shed on a commercial poultry farm including:

- sprinklers for cooling and then only between the hours of 6 am and 9 pm when the inside temperature of the shed is 30° Celsius or higher; and
- fogging systems and cooling pads, which may be used at any time.

8. Other Uses

Water cannot be used for any other use without the prior written permission of the relevant water business.

Penalties

Stage 1 water restrictions must be followed and penalties apply for non-compliance. For further information on penalties and enforcement, please contact your water business.