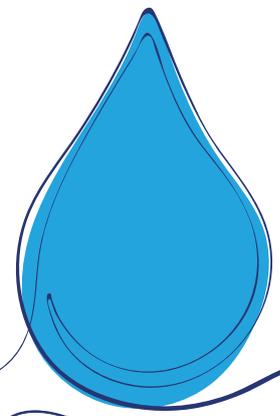


# WATER is LIFE

Use it wisely

Every drop counts



## 10 TIPS TO REDUCE WATER CONSUMPTION AT HOME



- 1** Make sure you turn off your taps properly. A single tap left dripping may lead to the wastage of 30 liters of water per day.



- 2** While waiting for the shower water to heat up, collect the first liters of water in a bucket and use it for watering, washing or instead of toilet flushing.



- 3** Take fewer and shorter showers and turn the tap off when soaping down.



- 4** Don't leave the tap running while washing your teeth/ hands or shaving.



- 5** Use lower flow taps, or install flow reducers, to reduce water waste.



- 6** Use the basin or a bowl when washing clothes or dishes by hand and avoid running water.



- 7** Don't use the toilet as a rubbish-bin. It avoids blockages in pipes and prevents unnecessary flushing.



- 8** Reuse water from washing fruits and vegetables for watering the plants.



- 9** Choose domestic appliances that consume less water. Only run full loads of dishes and clothes. Use the ECO programs of your machines.



- 10** Pay attention to water leakages, regularly check pipes and taps in your home and monitor your consumption in your water bill.

The Algarve is experiencing an extended drought with significant falls in the level of precipitation registered in the region (meteorological drought) alongside a reduction in the levels of water storage, in dams and aquifers (hydrological drought).

The structural measures set out in the Algarve Regional Water Efficiency Plan, implemented under the auspices of the Recovery and Resilience Plan, shall contribute to the hydric resilience on the region in 2026. However, the current context demands an immediate response.

**We are in a state of alert.** The levels of water storage are at extremely low. Should consumption remain unchanged, the water reserve available will fall short and we may be facing a serious situation of a breakdown in the supply of water for human consumption in the region.

**To deal with this situation, the government has decreed immediate contingency measures, temporary in duration, to cut the demand for water.** The objective is to bring about a **reduction of at least 15% in the volume of water consumed in the urban sector** (including domestic and non-domestic uses and the tourism sector), 25% in the agricultural sector and 18% in the golf sector in comparison with the volume consumed in the same period of 2023.

As complementary, **these measures involve all current water users in the region while preserving the priority of urban consumption (domestic consumption** in particular as stipulated by the Water Law) and seeking to guarantee the availability of water for essential urban purposes, for the survival of perennial agricultural crops and trees of a singular or monumental character and for the continued development of the tourism activities essential to the regional economy.

**All measures are necessary to avoid a breakdown in water supply water for human consumption and that the Algarve region maintains sufficient reserves to cope with the minimum priority levels of consumption through to the end of 2024.**

## General measures for reducing and rationalising water usage

Approved on 8 February 2024 – Council of Ministers Resolution no. 26-A/2024

- 1) **Reduction in the water pressure in the public supply network** under the operational conditions appropriate to ensuring the minimum essential levels that do not impact on quality of service;
- 2) **Suspension of any usage of water from the public network or extracted from other natural water sources for the irrigation of green spaces and public gardens**, with the due exceptions necessary to ensure the survival of trees of a singular or monumental character;
- 3) **Prohibition on the utilisation of water from the public network or extracted from other natural water sources for the irrigation of privately owned gardens and lawns**, with the due exceptions necessary to ensure the survival of trees of a singular or monumental character;
- 4) **Utilisation of water from other sources, such as water for reutilisation**, such as watering public green spaces and gardens as well as privately owned gardens and lawns, which may only take place outside the hours of significant solar radiation, thus, between 8pm and 8am;
- 5) **Prohibition on the utilisation of water from the public network or extracted from other natural water sources in ornamental fountains, artificial lakes and other aesthetic water features;**
- 6) **Prohibition on the washing of pavements, patios, walls and roofs** with water from the public network or extracted from other natural water sources;
- 7) **Prohibition on the utilisation of water from the public network or extracted from subterranean sources either for compacting highways (tracks or road foundations) or for controlling dust on public or private construction sites**, whenever water for reutilisation is available within a distance of less than 5 km;
- 8) **Utilisation of water from alternative origins, such as water for reutilisation, whenever available**, for non-potable urban uses such as washing streets, pavements, vehicle and equipment belonging to public entities and urban waste bins, while also reducing the frequency of washing;
- 9) **Suspension, between 1 June and 30 September 2024, of any usage of water from the public network for washing vehicles** (passenger or HGV), motorcycles, all-terrain vehicles, scooters or similar, except when carried out in an established licenced for this commercial activity and operating water recirculation systems or making recourse to a bucket and sponge outside of these car-washing establishments;
- 10) **Suspension of the public water supply to water meters that do not manage wastewaters** (commonly referred to as “irrigation meters”);
- 11) **Setting up or strengthening emergency repair teams** for monitoring and repairing any breakdown or rupture in the water distribution network and ensuring this service is available 24 hours per day, seven days per week;
- 12) **Evaluation and, whenever necessary, the implementation of complementary extraordinary measures for the transport and provision of water for public consumption**, including specific mobile desalination units and transporting water by different means;
- 13) **Revision of retail water supply charges** for domestic and non-domestic users, as well as for any purposes that do not produce wastewaters in accordance with the guidelines from the regulator, ERSAR;
- 14) **Application of the water service tariffs recommended by ERSAR**, seeking to boost the efficiency attained by this contingency situation.