

Carlson Rezidor hotels step up water-saving campaigns to avert Day Zero

As of 1 February 2018, Capetonians will be restricted to 50 litres of water per person, per day, for at least 150 days as level 6B water restrictions have been implemented. On 12 April or Day Zero, residents will have to collect water from approximately 200 sites across Cape Town where they'll receive 25 litres of water per person.

Hospitality players, now more than ever, need to contribute every effort in implementing effective water-saving initiatives, as well as dedicatedly continue educating both local and foreign guests.



Radisson Blu Le Vendôme Hotel. Image Source: [Radisson Blu](https://www.radissonblu.com)

Continuing its commitment to preserving the remaining water with the intention of delaying Day Zero, is the Carlson Rezidor Hotel Group. Each of its six hotels in the region has been actively embarking on operational changes and continuously implementing new initiatives to save as much water as possible since the commencement of the water crisis. They are also taking every opportunity to educate and encourage their guests to save water too.

The implementation of water saving campaigns

“It is vital that both local and international guests in the city are made aware of our current extreme water crisis and strictly adhere to the regulations that have been put in place to save water. The great news is that to date, our guests have been very accommodating, understanding and supportive,” said William McIntyre, regional director of Southern Africa for Carlson Rezidor Hotel Group.

“In line with these regulations, our hotels are continuously implementing various water-saving measures to ensure that both staff and guests adhere to the prescribed water restrictions.

“Education has always been a key component of our water saving campaigns. Guests are informed of the water crisis at all touchpoints, including upon arrival, all guests are informed of the water crisis in the city with signage in the hotel lifts and rooms as a constant reminder. Additional communication is presented by TV displays in the hotels illustrating the importance of the hotel group’s goals such as [Think Planet, Think Community and Think People](#) with a strong focus on awareness and demanding support to save water,” added McIntyre.

Water saving initiatives to reduce consumption

The six Carlson Rezidor hotels in the region have removed the large flush option from the dual flush systems and the automatic flush from their urinals, removed all the bath plugs and have installed aerators to reduce water flow from all taps.

To restrict water usage in the bathrooms and public areas, the hotels provide hand sanitisers. To reduce the amount of laundry, guests are encouraged to reuse their towels as part of the ongoing [Just A Drop](#) initiative which assists in providing children around the world access to safe drinking water. In addition, the linen is changed every three days or upon request.

Below, are additional initiatives implemented by the Carlson Rezidor hotels in Cape Town:

Park Inn by Radisson Cape Town Foreshore:

“Our team has reworked our down pipes to ensure all rainwater collected on the roof, flows straight into the pool and not down the drain,” said Jim Schleich, general manager.

“Our housekeepers also collect the “last rinse water” from our washing machines which are used to top up the pool, water the remaining plants as well as clean the floors. Our plants at the entrance of our hotel have also been replaced with artificial alternatives.”

Park Inn by Radisson Cape Town Newlands and Radisson Blu Le Vendome Hotel

“We are selling bottled water at cost price to our guests as we need to have each other’s best interests at heart, especially during this time of crisis,” said Clinton Thom, general manager.

“We’ve also placed a strong emphasis on recycling used water, for example by providing guests with buckets to catch their shower water, and the installation of a tank to catch the bathroom basin water which will be reused in the garden, etc. We have also applied to the City of Cape Town to tap into the Newlands Spring Water for hotel usage once we reach Day Zero.”

Radisson Blu Hotel Waterfront, Cape Town:

“Since the commencement of the water crisis, we have showcased in the hotel lobby, a prominent display, using bottles of mineral water to illustrate how much water can be saved by adhering to the quick shower instead of a bath,” said Debra Sivertsen, general manager.

“We have also successfully implemented numerous initiatives to align ourselves with [The City of Cape Town’s water-saving strategy](#), ensuring that guests are not unduly affected by the City of Cape Town’s water rationing and securing sufficient water storage to provide to guests during shortages.”

“Our popular infinity pool was one of the first in the city to close to prevent evaporation and unnecessary use of water. It

has subsequently reopened and going forward, it will be topped up with filtered seawater only when required.”

Radisson Blu Hotel & Residence, Cape Town:

“To encourage shorter showers, we have installed timers and stickers within all showers,” said Desmond O’Connor, general manager.

“We’ve also implemented numerous measures in our back of house areas to reduce water usage, for example using only microwaves or ovens to defrost food items, removal of wash basins in some areas and also controlling the usage of our chillers to reduce condenser water consumption.

“In terms of our pool, we closed it a few months ago, but over the holiday period have reopened it with non-potable water, with the intention of closing it end-January. We also turned off the pool heater and installed a water blanket as additional measures.”

Radisson RED Cape Town:

“All of our water fixtures are green leaf certified, contributing towards a reduction in water usage. Our newly-built hotel has incorporated design elements that assist in water saving, such as eco-flush on all toilets, no baths but rather showers which heat up in under six seconds, and a climate control system that uses ocean water for heating and cooling processes,” said Dale Simpson, the curator.

“We have also included an ‘H2O Help’ water menu which can be found in the key card sleeve, as well as interactive TV’s in the hotel rooms, revealing many ways guests can assist the hotel in saving water.



Image supplied - Radisson RED Cape Town H2O Menu

“One of the menu items which has become a standard part of each bathroom is the red buckets in the shower, which is then utilised to water the succulents on the roof. We’ve also changed our front of house uniforms to custom-designed t-shirts illustrating a dripping tap image, and the message to help Cape Town save water. This immediately engages guests upon arrival and provides the ideal opportunity to allow us to explain the crisis appropriately. In terms of our splash pool on our rooftop, we only refill it with plant water.”

“Every drop counts and the Carlson Rezidor Hotel Group is committed to ensuring that its hotels save as much water as possible. Our technical team are working closely with our Cape Town hotels to create a plan of action for Day Zero, and the period that follows. With our guests' support, we can truly make a difference and with the strongest of hopes, delay the looming Day Zero,” concludes McIntyre.

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