Drought Plan 2019 Annex 10: Restrictions: Frequently Asked Questions

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Drought Plan 2019



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Introduction

This annex was designed to support the consultation on Southern Water's draft Drought Plan 2019 by providing more detail on the company's position and experience of introducing water restrictions and exemptions. This is predominantly in relation to the introduction of the first phase of Temporary Use Bans, as experienced for the first time in the Southern Water region in the 2011-12 drought.

Below is a combined summary of answers to Frequently Asked Questions, which we posted on the Southern Water website during the drought of 2011-12, and answers to related questions received during the consultation on our Drought Plan 2013, which were published in our Statement of Response. Please visit the Southern Water website for up to date FAQs.

Our approach may vary in future droughts, based upon their severity and duration, however, we will aim to take a consistent approach, and align our activities with other water companies, in order to provide clarity for customers. We have signed up to the UKWIR Code of Practice and Guidance for Water Companies on Water Use Restrictions 2013.

Questions and Answers

General

What activities are restricted (prohibitions) under Temporary Use Bans?

The following activities are restricted:

- Watering a garden using a hosepipe
- Cleaning a private motor vehicle using a hosepipe
- Watering plants on domestic or other non-commercial premises using a hosepipe
- Cleaning a private leisure boat using a hosepipe
- Filling or maintaining a domestic swimming or paddling pool
- Drawing water using a hosepipe for domestic recreational use
- Filling or maintaining a domestic pond using a hosepipe
- Filling or maintaining an ornamental fountain
- Cleaning walls or windows of domestic premises using a hosepipe
- Cleaning paths or patios using a hosepipe
- Cleaning other artificial outdoor surfaces using a hosepipe.

In these prohibitions: "garden" includes a park, gardens open to the public, a lawn, a grass verge, grass used for sport or recreation, an allotment used for non-commercial purposes and any other green space; "hosepipe" includes anything designed, adapted or used to serve the same purpose as a hosepipe; "using a hosepipe for domestic recreational use" includes operating water slides and other recreational equipment.

Exceptions

The following tables list the exceptions offered by Southern Water to Temporary Use Bans (TUBs) and Drought Orders to restrict non-essential use (NEUB):



Table 1 List of TUB categories and corresponding exceptions

	TUB	Statutory	Universal	SWS Discretionary	Notes	UKWIR Suggested
	Category	Exemptions	Exemption	Exemption		-
		Using a hosepipe to water a garden for health and safety reasons.	Blue Badge holders on grounds of disability Use of an	Using a hosepipe to water an area of grass or artificial outdoor surface used for sport or recreation where this is required in connection with a national or	To align with company's Vulnerable approach (n.b a list of events considered to be Discretionary Exceptions Customers on the company's Vulnerable Customer List who have mobility issues but are not in possession of a	with previous approach (n.b a list of events considered to be exempt will be published
1	Watering a garden using a hosepipe	This includes "an area of grass used for sport or recreation" only in relation to the active strip/playing area , not the entire ground	approved drip or trickle irrigation system fitted with a pressure reducing valve (PRV) and timer	international sports event Use of a bowser or lance due to health and safety (working at height and access to water on site) To water newly laid turf for first 28 days	Southern Water website) As per 2012	To water food crops at domestic premises or private allotments
2	Cleaning a private motor- vehicle using a hosepipe	1) A public service vehicle as defined in section 1 of the Public Passenger vehicles Act 1981 2) a goods vehicle as defined in section 192 of the Road Traffic Act 1988	Blue Badge holders on grounds of disability Use of an approved drip or trickle irrigation system fitted with a pressure reducing valve (PRV) and timer	Where this is undertaken as a service to customers or part of a business	Align with Thames Water Taxis and minicabs are not considered to be public service vehicles and so are subject to bans	Customers on the company's Vulnerable Customer List who have mobility issues but are not in possession of a Blue Badge Use of specific low water apparatus such as pressure washers



	TUB	TUB Statutory Universal Discretion		SWS Discretionary		UKWIR Suggested		
	Category	Exemptions	Exemption	Exemption		Discretionary Exceptions		
3	Watering plants on a domestic or other non-commercial premises using a hosepipe	1) watering plants that are grown or kept for sale or commercial use 2) that are part of a national plant collection or temporary	Blue Badge holders on grounds of disability Use of an approved drip or trickle irrigation system fitted with a pressure reducing	Watering of newly laid turf (<28 days old) using drip irrigation	Issued in 2012	Customers on the company's Vulnerable Customer List who have mobility issues but are not in possession of a Blue Badge To water newly bought plants for the first 14 days		
		or temporary reducing garden or flower valve (PRV) display and timer			To water newly laid turf for first 28 days			
4	Cleaning a private leisure boat using a hosepipe	1) Cleaning any area of private leisure boat which except for doors or windows is enclosed by rook and walls	Commercial cleaning Vessels of primary residence Cases where fouling is causing increased fuel consumption Engines designed to be cleaned with a hosepipe		n/a	To remove graffiti		
4		2) using a hosepipe to conclean a private leisure boat for health and safety reasons		n/a		mobility issues but are not in possession of a Blue Badge To water newly bought plants for the first 14 days To water newly laid turf for first 28 days To prevent or control the spread of non-invasive species Pools with covers used to minimise evaporative losses when not in use Pools with water conservation and/or recycling systems		
	Filling or maintaining	Filling or maintaining a pool where necessary in the course of its construction				n/a	Hot tubs are not classed as pools	used to minimise evaporative losses when not
5	a domestic swimming or paddling pool	maintaining construction a domestic 2) Filling or swimming maintaining a or paddling pool using hand		Pools with religious significance are not domestic pools	conservation and/or recycling			



	TUB Category	Statutory Exemptions	Universal Exemption	SWS Discretionary Exemption	Notes	UKWIR Suggested Discretionary Exceptions
		3) Filling or maintaining a pool that is designed, constructed or adapted for use in the course of a programme of medical treatment			Pools used	Paddling pools at early stages of a drought
		4) Filling or maintaining a pool that is used for the purpose of decontaminating animals from infection or disease.			by school pupils for swimming lessons should not be excluded, they are covered by	Pools that are subject to significant repair and renovation
		5) Filling or maintaining a pool used in the course of a programme of veterinary treatment 6) Filling or maintaining a pool in which fish or other aquatic animals are being reared or kept in captivity			Drought Order legislation	Filling new pools
6	Drawing water using a hosepipe for domestic recreational use	None	None	n/a	n/a	Pools with covers used to minimise evaporative losses when not in use Pools with water conservation and/or recycling systems approved by the water company



	TUB Category	Statutory Exemptions	Universal Exemption	SWS Discretionary Exemption	Notes	UKWIR Suggested Discretionary Exceptions
7	Filling or maintaining a domestic pond using a hosepipe	Filling or maintaining a domestic pond in which fish or other aquatic animals are being reared or kept in captivity	Blue Badge holders on grounds of disability Use of an approved drip or trickle irrigation system fitted with a pressure reducing valve (PRV) and timer	n/a	Filling and topping up of a pond by fixed and buried pipes is not restricted.	Customers on the company's Vulnerable Customer List who have mobility issues but are not in possession of a Blue Badge
8	Filling or maintaining an ornamental fountain	None	None	n/a	n/a	To operate water features with religious significance
9	Cleaning walls or windows of domestic premises using a hosepipe	Using a hosepipe to clean the walls or windows of domestic premises for health and safety reasons	Blue Badge holders on grounds of disability Commercial cleaning	Where this is undertaken as a service to customers or part of a business	Align with Thames Water	Customers on the company's Vulnerable Customer List who have mobility issues but are not in possession of a Blue Badge For the removal of graffiti Where very low water use technologies are
						employed and approved by the water company



	TUB Category	Statutory Exemptions	Universal Exemption	SWS Discretionary Exemption	Notes	UKWIR Suggested Discretionary Exceptions
100	Cleaning paths or patios using a hosepipe	Using a hosepipe to clean paths or patios for health and safety reasons	Blue Badge holders on grounds of disability Commercial cleaning	Where this is undertaken as a service to customers or part of a business	Align with Thames Water	Customers on the company's Vulnerable Customer List who have mobility issues but are not in possession of a Blue Badge For the removal of graffiti Where very low water use technologies are employed and approved by the water company
				water fed poles for window cleaning at height is permitted under the business water fed poles for window cleaning at height is permitted under the H&S statutory	Thames	Customers on the company's Vulnerable Customer List who have mobility issues but are not in possession of a Blue Badge
11	Cleaning other artificial surfaces using a hosepipe	Using a hosepipe to clean an artificial outdoor surface for health and safety reasons	Blue Badge holders on grounds of disability Commercial cleaning		poles for window cleaning at height is permitted under the H&S	For the removal of graffiti
			The restrictions do not apply where the cleaning apparatus is not connected to mains supply.	Where very low water use technologies are employed and approved by the water company		

from Southern Water

Table 2 Activities restricted by a non-essential use drought order and corresponding exceptions

	Drought Order Category	Statutory Exemptions	Universal Exception	SWS Discretionary Exception	UKWIR Suggested Discretionary Exceptions	
1	Order Category Watering outdoor plants on commercial premises Filling or maintaining a non-domestic swimming or paddling pool Filling or maintaining a pond Operating a pond Operating a mechanical vehicle washer Cleaning any vehicle, boat, aircraft or Watering Exception None None	None	None None	Use of an approved drip or trickle irrigation system fitted with a PRV and timer	Use of an approved drip or trickle irrigation system fitted with a PRV and timer	
		Watering newly- bought plants	Watering newly-bought plants			
					Swimming pools serving industrial training if considered justified	
	Filling or				Swimming pools with covers	
2	maintaining a non-	intaining n non- omestic None None n/a mming or addling	None	n/a	Pools with religious significance	
	swimming or paddling		None			
					Pools that are subject to significant repair and innovation	
3	maintaining	holders on grounds of	holders on grounds of	n/a	Customers on the company's Vulnerable Customer List who have mobility issues but are not in possession of a Blue Badge	
4	mechanical vehicle	None	None	n/a	Washers which recycle water and thus use less than 23 litres per wash	
	washer				On biosecurity grounds	
	Cleaning any	leaning any vehicle, boat, aircraft or railway rolling stock for health and	None	n/a	Low water use technologies	
5	vehicle, boat, aircraft or railway				Small businesses whose sole operations are cleaning of vehicles using hosepipes	
					Those using vessels as a primary residence	



	Drought Order Category	Statutory Exemptions	Universal Exception	SWS Discretionary Exception	UKWIR Suggested Discretionary Exceptions
					Cases where fouling of hulls causes fuel consumption
					To remove graffiti
					To prevent of control the spread of non-native and/or invasive species
	exterior part of a non- domestic building or non-	or part a non- domestic			Small businesses whose sole operations are cleaning of vehicles using hosepipes
6		building or non-domestic wall for health	None	none	None n/a
	domestic wall	and safety reasons			To remove graffiti
7	Cleaning a window of non- domestic building	Cleaning a window of non-domestic building using a hosepipe for health and safety reasons	None	n/a	Small businesses whose sole operations are cleaning of vehicles using hosepipes
8	Cleaning industrial plant	Cleaning industrial plant using a hosepipe for health and safety reasons	None	n/a	To remove graffiti
9	Suppressing dust	Suppressing dust using a hosepipe for health and safety reasons	None	n/a	None
10	Operating cisterns on unoccupied buildings	None	None	n/a	None

Further exceptions are specified in the Water Use (Temporary Bans) Order 2010 (SI 2010 No. 2231) and that Order also defines certain terms. The Order may be found at www.southernwater.co.uk/wateruseorder, and the company will consider instances of significant hardship for concessionary exceptions, which may be subject to conditions – please call us on 0845 278 0845 if you think this applies to you.



Phasing of water supply restrictions

Restrictions on businesses are predominantly introduced during the second more severe phase of a drought, under a Drought Order. Some businesses may be affected by TUBs which are introduced in the first phase of a developing drought. Businesses can apply to Southern Water for an exemption if they would suffer hardship.

Southern Water's initial objectives are to maximise water savings in the first phase, while minimising the impact on the local economy and employment. The phasing of restrictions and exemptions is designed to maintain supplies for essential services and businesses as long as possible.

Domestic customers

Can I use my hosepipe or sprinkler?

A Temporary Use Ban is authorised by new legislation. It prohibits the use of water for specified purposes, most of which involve using a hosepipe. This has a much wider scope of restrictions than the former 'hosepipe' ban, which can be imposed by water companies. Sprinklers are captured by the ban.

Can I use a hosepipe to wash down my dog when muddy?

Yes, you can providing the purpose is to wash your dog as this is not a restricted activity. However, we urge all customers to use water wisely and only where it is absolutely necessary.

Can I use a hosepipe to fill the on-board tank in my caravan or motor home?

Yes, if the water is for domestic use (i.e. washing, cooking and toilet facilities) but not if all or any part of the water is used to wash the caravan or motor home, or to water a garden.

Blue Badge holders and vulnerable customers

I am a Blue Badge holder, am I affected by the restrictions?

Yes, but if you have severe mobility problems and are the holder of a current Blue Badge as issued by your local authority, then we will allow an exception to the following prohibitions:

- Watering a garden attached to domestic premises, including an allotment
- Watering plants on domestic premises using a hosepipe
- Cleaning a private motor vehicle using a hosepipe
- Filling or maintaining a domestic pond using a hosepipe
- Cleaning walls or windows of domestic premises using a hosepipe
- Cleaning paths or patios using a hosepipe
- Cleaning other artificial outdoor surfaces using a hosepipe.

We urge all customers to use water wisely and only where it's essential. Please note that exceptions may be subject to conditions or withdrawal if the drought becomes more severe. To keep up to date with drought severity please check the company website.



I am disabled or infirm and I do not hold a Blue Badge. Am I affected by the restrictions?

Yes. However, we will consider applications for exceptions from customers who are significantly adversely affected by the restrictions due to infirmity or disability or are on the company's Vulnerable Customer List for the following prohibitions:

- Watering a garden attached to domestic premises, including an allotment.
- Watering plants on domestic premises using a hosepipe.
- Cleaning a private motor vehicle using a hosepipe.
- Filling or maintaining a domestic pond using a hosepipe
- Cleaning walls or windows of domestic premises using a hosepipe
- Cleaning paths or patios using a hosepipe
- Cleaning other artificial outdoor surfaces using a hosepipe.

Please note that exceptions may be subject to conditions and will be withdrawn if the drought becomes more severe. To keep up to date with drought severity please check the company website.

In the garden

Can I still water my lawn and plants with a watering can?

Yes, as long as the can has not been filled using a hosepipe.

Can I use a hosepipe to fill a watering can or water butt to water my garden?

No. You are not able to use a hosepipe to fill a watering can or water butt with mains water for this purpose. We do, however, encourage all of our customers to make use of water butts to collect rainwater, which can then be used to water the garden with a watering can or a pump direct from the water butt.

Does the restriction apply to rainwater that I have stored either in water butts or other storage containers?

No, it only applies to mains water. There are pumps on the market which enable you to pump collected rainwater from your water butt or other storage container.

Does the restriction apply to irrigation systems?

Irrigation systems do fall within the restrictions. However, we appreciate that some irrigation systems can be water efficient. We will permit the use of a drip or trickle irrigation watering system fitted with a pressure-reducing valve and a timer, that is not handheld, that places water drip by drip directly onto the soil surface or beneath the soil surface, without any surface run off or dispersion of water through the air using a jet or mist. Please note that exceptions may be subject to conditions or withdrawal if the drought becomes more severe.

Can I water my newly-laid turf?

Yes you can, but not using a hosepipe. We will, however, consider applications for exceptions in cases of hardship to customers and the supply chain i.e. landscape gardeners. Please note that exceptions may be subject to conditions and will be withdrawn if the drought becomes more severe. To keep up to date with drought severity please check the company website.

Can I water my hanging basket?

Yes, you can, but not using a hosepipe.



Ponds, swimming pools and paddling pools

I have a pond with fish in it. Will I be able to top up my pond using a hosepipe?

Yes. You should keep your pond topped up to a minimum level to safeguard the fish but please remember that tap water needs conditioning before it is used to top up a pond.

I have a water fountain in the garden; can I continue to use it?

Most water fountains operate by recycling a small amount of water. If this is the case for yours, you may continue to operate it. You cannot, however, replenish the fountain with water drawn from the mains supply unless it is in or near to a fish pond and its purpose is to supply sufficient oxygen to the water in the pond to keep fish healthy.

Can I fill my swimming or paddling pool?

Not unless you do so with a hand-held container if using water mains water. This restriction does not apply if you are filling a pool for the following purposes:

- Where necessary in the course of its construction
- Where designed, constructed or adapted for use in the course of a programme of medical treatment
- Used for the purpose of decontaminating animals from infections or disease
- Used in the course of a programme of veterinary treatment
- Used for the purposes of a business
- A pool in which fish or other aquatic animals are being reared or kept in captivity.

Please see the section below on commercial customers in relation to swimming pool repair and/or maintenance subject to a contract.

The last time you had restrictions I could still fill up a paddling pool, why can't I now?

Temporary Uses Bans have replaced the previous hosepipe ban legislation, which dated back to 1945. The new legislation has a much wider scope of restrictions that can be controlled by water companies. In all, 11 categories of use are specified within section 76(2) of the WIA 1991 (as amended by section 36 of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 (FWMA 2010). These target non-essential use to help ensure that domestic supplies for drinking, cooking, washing and sanitation can be maintained.

Is a hot tub classed as a swimming pool?

No, for the purposes of these restrictions a hot tub or jacuzzi is not classed as a swimming pool.

Car and vehicle washing

Can I wash the following using a hosepipe: Car, motorbike, taxi, company car, caravan, trailer?

As a result of the restrictions, you are not permitted to wash any of the above with a hosepipe or similar apparatus. You can, however, use a bucket, as long as you do not fill it with a hosepipe. If your vehicle or its trailer is a "goods vehicle" (i.e. constructed or adapted for use for the carriage of goods) then it is not affected by the restrictions, but we ask that all our customers use water sparingly.



Health and safety

Are there any exceptions for health and safety reasons?

Yes, but only where the use itself is for a health or safety reason and only in respect of the activities listed below:

- watering a garden
- cleaning a private leisure boat
- cleaning walls or windows of domestic premises
- cleaning paths or patios
- cleaning other outdoor surfaces.

Health and safety includes removing or minimising any risk to human or animal health or safety and preventing or controlling the spread of causative agents of disease.

Personal health activities, such as general washing and bathing (showers, baths etc.), are not restricted, however, we would urge customers to consider installing water efficient showerheads and tap aerators and taking shorter showers.



Commercial and community customers

When the Temporary Use Bans were implemented by Southern Water in April 2012, the restrictions did not impact upon the majority of commercial businesses. Restrictions on businesses' water use are predominantly introduced during the second phase of a drought, under a Drought Order and under the second phase of Temporary Use Bans. Businesses can apply to Southern Water for an exemption if they would suffer hardship. Southern Water's initial objectives are to maximise water savings in the first phase, while minimising the impact on the local economy and employment. The phasing of restrictions and exemptions is designed to maintain supplies for essential services and businesses for as long as possible.

from Southern Water

Swimming pools

I build, repair and/or refurbish swimming pools; can the swimming pool be filled on completion?

Providing the filling of the pool is during the course of its construction, a significant repair or a refurbishment then this does not fall within the restrictions. The pool is, however, to be filled or refilled by the specialist business undertaking the work which is subject to contract.

I specialise in swimming pool maintenance; can I use a hosepipe to top up the pool?

No. However, we will consider on a case-by-case basis applications for exceptions from business customers in cases of hardship when specialising in swimming pool maintenance. The work must be subject to a maintenance contract. Please note that exceptions may be subject to conditions and will be withdrawn if the drought becomes more severe. To keep up to date with drought severity please check the company website.

We are a school. Can we top up our swimming pool using a hosepipe?

Yes, the restrictions in place currently under the first phase of Temporary Use Bans only apply to domestic swimming pools.

Car and window washing

Why are councils still cleaning windows, buildings and washing public vehicles etc.?

Not all activities are covered by the Temporary Use Bans, e.g. cleaning the windows of non-domestic buildings or washing public service vehicles. However, all water users are urged to conserve water whenever they can and we have given water-saving advice to councils and other commercial customers. Should the situation deteriorate, consideration would be given to applying for further powers to restrict other activities.

Are commercial businesses using water affected by the restrictions?

They are in certain circumstances if the activity they undertake is restricted. The 11 categories of restrictions apply to both domestic and commercial customers. However, in some cases, each group will be affected differently.

For example, domestic pools in back gardens cannot be topped up with a hose but pools open to the public are not affected by the Temporary Use Ban. However, maintaining an ornamental fountain using a hosepipe is restricted regardless of who owns it, or where it is.

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Annex 10: Restrictions: Frequently Asked Questions

We have included an exception for using a hosepipe to clean a private motor vehicle, walls and windows of domestic premises, or paths and patios and other outdoor surfaces where this is done as a service to customers in the course of a business specialising in these activities. Please note that exceptions may be subject to conditions and will be withdrawn if the drought becomes more severe.

from Southern Water

We are a car wash – are we affected?

Yes, if you use a hosepipe or similar apparatus to clean a private motor vehicle, unless you are a business specialising solely in hand car-washing using a hosepipe as part of your process. While the use of mechanical vehicle washers is not currently restricted under the ban we would ask that you review how water efficient your apparatus is.

I run a commercial business; can I use a hosepipe to wash my company's goods vehicles, lorries, trailers, coaches, buses, minibuses, boat or plane?

The restrictions do not affect the washing of goods vehicles (including their trailers) or public service vehicles. However, buses and minibuses that are used for employees and do not operate as public service vehicles, are covered by the ban.

Planes are not covered by the restrictions but private leisure boats, including jet skis and any other vessel which is designed, constructed or adopted to move through, in or over water are, unless they are used in the course of a business or made available to the public. We would ask all our customers to use water sparingly.

I am a taxi or minicab driver or I own a company car or a car sales garage – am I affected?

Yes. Taxis, licensed minicabs, company cars and garage forecourt cars for sale are covered by the restrictions on using a hosepipe. You can continue to use a bucket to wash your vehicle(s).

We are a window cleaning business – how are we affected?

You may not use a hosepipe to clean the windows of domestic premises, unless you are using a water-fed pole in the course of a business. Hosepipes can still be used for cleaning windows of commercial premises but please make every effort to conserve water.

Gardening

Our business uses water while working on behalf of customers in respect of gardens – are we affected by the restrictions?

Yes. Any use of a hosepipe for garden watering comes under the ban. A gardener working on a garden cannot use a hosepipe if the water is supplied by mains water. There are the following exceptions:

- Cleaning a private motor vehicle by a business specialising in hand car washing which uses hosepipes as part of the process
- Using a water-fed pole to clean the windows of domestic premises in the course of a business
- Cleaning the walls of domestic premises in the course of a business
- Cleaning paths, patios and hard-standings by a business whose sole operation is the cleaning of paths, patios and other hard-standings.

We will, in addition, consider applications for exceptions in cases of hardship to customers and the supply chain e.g. landscape gardeners. Please note that exceptions may be subject to conditions and will be withdrawn if the drought becomes more severe. To keep up to date with drought severity please check the company website.

We are a garden centre – are we affected?

Garden centres are not covered by the restrictions for the watering of plants for commercial sale. We would, however, encourage the use of a watering can as an alternative where possible. Please note, filling ornamental displays with water supplied by us is prohibited unless this is necessary to supply sufficient oxygen to the water in a pond to keep fish healthy.

Sport pitches and grounds

We are a bowling green, tennis club, sports ground or golf course – are we affected?

Yes, the legislation includes not using a hosepipe or sprinkler to water an area of grass used for sport or recreation and any other green space.

Sports grounds hosting regional (across counties), national or international events have an exception from the water restrictions. However, the company would ask clubs to use less water and consider future plans on how their grounds can be maintained.

There is also a statutory exception on health and safety grounds and clubs are advised to undertake and document a health and safety risk assessment if they are relying on this exception.

However, we do not want critical playing surfaces to become damaged, so the watering of key playing areas is permitted for cricket squares, golf greens, bowling greens, tennis courts. Please contact us on 0845 278 0845 if you have a specific requirement to maintain a key playing area, to discuss the arrangements for watering, which will be agreed on a case by case basis, and subject to conditions around frequency, duration, method and time of day.

Sprinklers are not permitted for watering unless proven to be more water efficient than watering with a handheld container or hose and with our prior consent. Please note that exceptions of this nature may be subject to conditions and could be withdrawn if a drought becomes more severe.

Farmers and agriculture

I am a farmer. How will I be affected by the Temporary Use Ban?

Your agricultural activities will not be affected by the restrictions but you must observe all of the prohibited uses. We would encourage you to use water efficient systems.

Can I use a hosepipe to fill a trough to provide water for my livestock?

Yes, as this is not a restricted activity.

I run a business where I grow produce for commercial purposes (e.g. market garden). Can I use a hosepipe?

Yes, the ban does not restrict this. However, we would ask you to consider using a water efficient system.

