



# ZWARTKOP GOLF ESTATE

## Notice

Notice Number 32/072012  
Date: 23 July 2012

Dear Resident,

### **Please Switch Off**

Heed the call. Switch off your geyser and pool pump and other electrical appliances between 5pm and 9pm. Here's why ..

Late afternoon to early evening close to 5.4 million electrical element geysers demand approximately 2940 MW electricity in South Africa. At the same time, nearly 641 000 residential pool pumps demand more than 60 MW.

### **Astounding figures ...**

The need for hot water and clean swimming pools in millions of homes across the country places severe pressure on the national grid between 5pm and 9pm, the period of peak demand in South Africa. The electrical element geyser is so energy hungry that if 5.4 million homeowners would switch it off between 5pm and 9pm, national demand for electricity would plummet by 2 940 MW, enough to free-up five units of a six pack power station or light up a city as big as Durban or Port Elizabeth or Bloemfontein.

Now, if 640 050 pool pumps would be switched off during the same period and conservatively reduce 60 MW, enough to meet the electricity demands of a city like Stellenbosch. Your electrical element geyser will keep water at the thermostat set point for a few hours after switch off, with a marginal drop in temperature of 10°C over a period of 24 hours if the water is not used. And, the pool pump will keep your swimming pool as clean as ever if set to run for 6 hours instead of 10 outside in summer and only 3 hours during winter of evening period of peak demand. Switching off is all it takes to make a national impact – with zero impact on your life.

We have investigated Zwartkop's electricity usage during the past week and noticed that our peak electricity usage during weekdays occurs between 6am and 11am and then again between 6pm and 9pm. During these peak hours we use on average a 100 kWh.

Let's heed the call and declare for ourselves that "electrical element geysers and pool pumps are not welcome between 5pm and 9pm". It's that simple to join a national drive towards balancing supply and demand on the national grid during a time of energy constraints in our country, and making South Africa electricity smart and energy efficient.

### **Some Electricity Saving Tips:**

The biggest electricity users in the home tend to be heating and/or air conditioning, water heating, washing machines, tumble dryers, dishwashers, lighting, and the refrigerator. When looking to save electricity, spend the most time focusing on these big energy users to get the biggest effect for your efforts.

- Set your pool pumps, geysers and air conditioners to switch off during 17:00 and 21:00.
- Set your geyser to a lower temperature. If your hot tap is boiling hot when you open it you know your geyser is set too high.
- Use a gas stove for cooking
- Seal up the house.
- Cooled air can leak through cracks along window and door frames. Invest in some caulk and weather-stripping to plug up these drafts.
- In your clothes washer, set the appropriate water level for the size of the load; wash in cold water when practical, and always rinse in cold.
- Clean the lint filter in the dryer after each use.
- Dry heavy and light fabrics separately and don't add wet items to a load that's already partly dry.
- Ideally use a spin dryer before using the tumble dryer.
- A clothesline is the most energy-efficient clothes dryer of all!
- Configure your computer to "sleep" or "hibernate" mode automatically after 30 minutes or so of inactivity. The "hibernate mode" turns the computer off in a way that doesn't require you to reload everything when you switch it back on. Allowing your computer to hibernate saves energy and is more time-efficient than shutting down and restarting your computer from scratch. When you're done for the day, shut down.
- Turn off your television, video, hifi, playstation, and other entertainment devices when they are not being used.
- Do not leave your television etc in standby mode. Devices can use up to 90% as much power in standby mode as when they are on, so it is a serious waste of energy when a device is left constantly on standby.
- Replace all of your inefficient light bulbs with much more efficient and longer lasting LED lights.
- Cook many items at the same time when your electric oven is hot.
- Use a microwave to reheat food or to cook small portions. Although a microwave uses a lot of power, it does so over a very short time and so saves energy overall.
- Purchase energy efficient white goods (washing machines, tumble driers, fridges etc). Although they usually cost a little more initially, the cost savings in electricity will cover that many times over. As an added benefit, efficient items

are usually better made and last longer than inefficient models.

- Vacuum clean the condenser coils at the back or underneath your fridge freezer. Accumulated dust reduces their efficiency by up to 25% adding that cost to your electricity bill.
- Fold clothes straight out of the tumble drier while they are still warm to save on ironing.
- Cool cooked food before you put it into the fridge.
- Do not put uncovered liquids into the fridge. Their evaporation will make the fridge have to work harder.
- Heat only as much water as you require for drinks and cooking. If you keep forgetting, purchase an energy efficient eco kettle.
- Use a convection oven. A small fan inside circulates hot air throughout the oven cutting cooking times by up to 30%.
- Don't preheat the oven for roasting.
- Don't keep opening the oven door. Every time you do so, your oven loses 20°C of heat.
- Put lamps in the corner of a room so that the light is reflected off two walls.
- Defrost frozen food in the fridge since this helps to cool the fridge.
- Running a full load in an efficient dishwasher will use less hot water than washing up by hand in the sink! Save money, save time, and save electricity.
- Unplug. Gadgets like a cellphone charger or microwave suck energy and generate heat as long as they're attached to a power source. Standby power for appliances not in use typically accounts for 5% to 10% of residential electricity use. Plug those devices into a power strip that can be turned off when not in use.

If you have any suggestions on how electricity can be saved in Zwartkop Golf Estate, please email your tips to [rob@zwartkopgolfestate.co.za](mailto:rob@zwartkopgolfestate.co.za).

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