

Sassda promotes the use of stainless steel water pipes

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The Southern African [Stainless Steel](#) Development Association ([Sassda](#)) is, along with the [Drakenstein](#) municipality in Paarl, in the [Western Cape](#), and South African [stainless steel product](#) manufacturers, evaluating the use of [stainless steel pipes](#) to reduce [water](#) leaks.

[Sassda](#) states that as much as 60% of [South Africa](#)'s treated [water](#) is lost to leaking [pipe systems](#).

Further, about 40% of [Johannesburg](#)'s treated [water](#) supply is nonrevenue [water](#), equating to a loss of R1.1-billion a year. Of this, 73.3% is lost due to [pipe](#) leakage, the association says, adding that case studies have shown that 95% of treated [water](#) leaks occur in the small diameter [service pipes](#) connecting the distribution [pipes](#) to the users' [water](#) meters.

[Sassda Western Cape](#) manager [Michel Basson](#) says this is because [water pipes](#) are currently made from, or replaced with, high-density polyethylene, with a lifespan of 20 years, as opposed to [stainless steel pipes](#) with a 60-year lifespan.

"In light of this, we currently have a test [installation](#) under way in a residential unit in Paarl where we are evaluating the [installation](#) of [corrugated stainless steel tubes](#) connected to the bulk supply line, which have been installed and covered in such a way that they can be easily removed for inspection," he explains.

This pilot [project](#) is the initial stage of a planned joint undertaking with [Drakenstein](#) municipality, which has been involved in large upgrades to [infrastructure](#) of [water](#) supply, sewage and [roads](#) with the current expansion of luxury estate homes along the Berg river.

The initial stage has seen both dummy [pipes](#) and 316 [stainless steel pipes](#), manufactured by [INOX Systems](#), installed at Honey Dew Country Estate.

"The potential for [stainless steel water supply installations](#) in the municipal area is potentially huge since it covers a large geographic area of populated land. Current [infrastructure](#) upgrades include the Berg River boulevard extension which will act as an additional link for residential development from Helderberg and Stellenbosch to the [N1 Paarl](#), [Mbekweni](#) and [Wellington](#)," states [Sassda](#).

"[Water](#) loss on the scale we are experiencing, especially with the current [water](#) crises being experienced, has major economic and [environmental](#) implications for [South Africa](#) and other countries around the world.

"This year at the International [Stainless Steel](#) Forum's annual meetings, the forum launched an initiative to promote the use of [stainless steel water pipes](#). It presented an analysis of three case studies where [stainless steel](#) has been used for [water pipes](#), drawing conclusive evidence that [stainless steel](#) is the best material of choice when considering [environmental](#) and economic considerations," says [Sassda](#) executive director [John Tarboton](#). 