



WHAT IS THE DISTRIBUTION NETWORK?

The distribution network includes:

- ✓ Standpipes
- ✓ Pipe networks
- ✓ Storage reservoirs

STANDPIPES

Standpipes are freestanding pipes (fitted with taps) that are situated centrally in each community, from which water can be collected by the local residents. The objective of the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry is to at least have water at 100m interval standpipes available for domestic use.

PIPE NETWORKS

The whole purpose of a water distribution system is to deliver water of suitable quality to individual users in an adequate amount and at satisfactory pressure.

Pipe networks (the connection between the reservoir and the water user) are especially designed to maintain and supply the necessary water pressure, which is calculated with consideration for the size (surface area) and height of the reservoir, the number of abstraction points and the peak volume demand.

The Water Services Provider is responsible for the maintenance of the pipe system.

RESERVOIRS

Water storage reservoirs are necessary for the temporary storage of water.

Since water is used by communities during daylight hours with peak abstractions at about 5 to 8 a.m. and again at 4 to 9 p.m., sufficient storage is therefore required in the reservoir to balance inflow and outflow.

Storage is also required to provide back-up supply during times when delivery is interrupted due to pump failure and other possible breakdowns in the water supply industry.

The Water Services Provider is responsible to ensure that the reservoirs are maintained.

References: DWAF (2002): Quality of domestic water supplies. Volume 5: Management Guide WRC No. TT 162/01, pp. 34 and 35