



**AMBERLY GROVE HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION  
NPC**

**REGISTRATION NUMBER: 2005/032100/08**

**Environmental Management Policy**

02 September 2025

At Amberly Grove Homeowners Association, we've created an Environmental Management Policy to help everyone work together to keep our community beautiful and healthy. We want to make sure we're all doing our part to protect the environment and follow South African environmental laws. Here's a friendly guide to our policy for both shared and private areas.

### **Taking Care of Our Communal Areas**

The HOA looks after the environmental management of all our shared spaces.

- **No Herbicides:** To keep our community safe for all residents, children, and pets, we don't use any chemical herbicides in communal areas. This is a directive from a Board Resolution. Instead, we manage all vegetation using non-chemical methods like manual removal or mechanical cutting.
- **Managing Invasive Plants:** We have a legal responsibility under the National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act (NEMBA) to control alien and invasive plants in our shared areas. We focus on non-chemical methods like hand-pulling, digging, and mechanical removal to protect our indigenous plants and water resources.
- **A Special Note on Privet Trees:** We know the privet trees along the lower boundary are important for privacy and screening. While we won't be removing them, we are committed to managing their spread to fulfil our legal obligations as they are considered a Category 1b invasive species under NEMBA. We'll be collecting fallen berries to limit seed dispersal and monitoring the trees to ensure they don't spread further. Please be aware that signs have been put up to let everyone know that the leaves and berries are toxic.
- **Encouraging Everyone to Help:** If you happen to spot any invasive plants in our communal areas, we would really appreciate it if you could let the HOA know.

### **Environmental Best Practices for Everyone**

We've put a number of practices in place to help manage our shared spaces:

- **Waste and Recycling:** We have a dedicated area for solid waste with proper bins, and we kindly ask that everyone refrain from littering. We also have a recycling bin available for plastic.
- **Water and Energy:** We're doing our best to save water by regularly checking for and fixing leaks in shared taps and toilets. We also use energy-efficient light bulbs in all our communal lights where possible.
- **Keeping Our Stream and Drains Clear:** We regularly inspect and maintain our stormwater drains to prevent clogging. We also make sure the stream and its banks are kept in good condition and remove any rubbish we find.

## A Guide for Your Private Property

We know that homeowners take great pride in their private gardens, and you are responsible for the environmental management of your own property, subject to certain regulations. Here's how we can all work together to keep our neighbourhood safe and healthy:

- **Using Garden Products Wisely:** If you use any herbicides or other remedies, please ensure they are registered products under Act 36 of 1947. It's a legal requirement to always follow the instructions on the product label. This includes using the correct application rates, targeting the right plants, and taking safety precautions for people and pets. This helps protect our indigenous plants, beneficial insects like bees and butterflies, and ensures the safety of our children and pets. A great tip is to avoid using any sprays on windy days to prevent them from drifting onto neighbouring properties or communal areas.
- **Preventing Harm:** Homeowners have a legal "duty of care" (as per NEMA, Section 28) to ensure their actions do not harm neighbouring properties, communal areas, stormwater drains, or water bodies.
- **Invasive Plants on Private Property:** Just like in our communal areas, homeowners are responsible for managing any alien and invasive plants on their own property.
- **Reporting Concerns:** If you notice something that seems like it might be causing harm to the environment, such as irresponsible herbicide use or a failure to manage invasive species, please feel free to report it to the HOA. We will look into it in line with our policy and applicable laws.

### Enforcement

The HOA is committed to ensuring compliance with this policy. We reserve the right to take appropriate action, such as issuing written warnings or requiring remedial action at the homeowner's expense, if a homeowner is found to be in breach of these responsibilities.

By working together and following these simple guidelines, we can ensure Amberly Grove remains a safe, healthy, and beautiful place for everyone to enjoy. Thank you for your cooperation!

## Appendix A: Legal Framework and Guiding Principles

This policy is guided by key South African legislation and principles:

- **The Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996 (Section 24):** This law gives everyone the right to an environment that is not harmful to their health or well-being. It also requires the protection of the environment for present and future generations through conservation, preventing pollution, and promoting sustainable development.
- **National Environmental Management Act (NEMA), 1998:** This is our main environmental framework. It establishes a "duty of care" for all people to prevent environmental harm and includes the "Polluter Pays" principle, meaning those who cause harm are responsible for the clean-up costs.
- **National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act (NEMBA), 2004:** This Act protects South Africa's biodiversity and is crucial for the management of alien and invasive species, which are categorized by the Act.
- **Fertilizers, Farm Feeds, Agricultural Remedies and Stock Remedies Act, 1947 (Act 36 of 1947):** This law regulates agricultural remedies like herbicides to prevent harm to people, animals, and the environment. It requires products to be registered and for users to follow label instructions strictly.
- **National Environmental Management: Waste Act (NEMWA), 2008:** NEMWA governs waste management and the proper disposal of things like plant material to prevent pollution and ecological harm.
- **Homeowners Association (HOA) Mandate:** As an HOA under South African law, Amberly Grove has the authority to create rules that support community well-being and sustainability.
- **National Water Act, 1998 (Act No. 36 of 1998):** This Act is relevant to protecting water resources from pollution and managing water-related ecosystems like streams and wetlands.
- **National Forests Act, 1998 (Act No. 84 of 1998):** This Act is important for the protection of any significant indigenous trees on communal or private properties.
- **Conservation of Agricultural Resources Act, 1983 (Act No. 43 of 1983):** This Act reinforces the obligation to manage alien and invasive plants, especially those that may impact soil health, water resources, or biodiversity.