STEEL PLATE SOLUTIONS

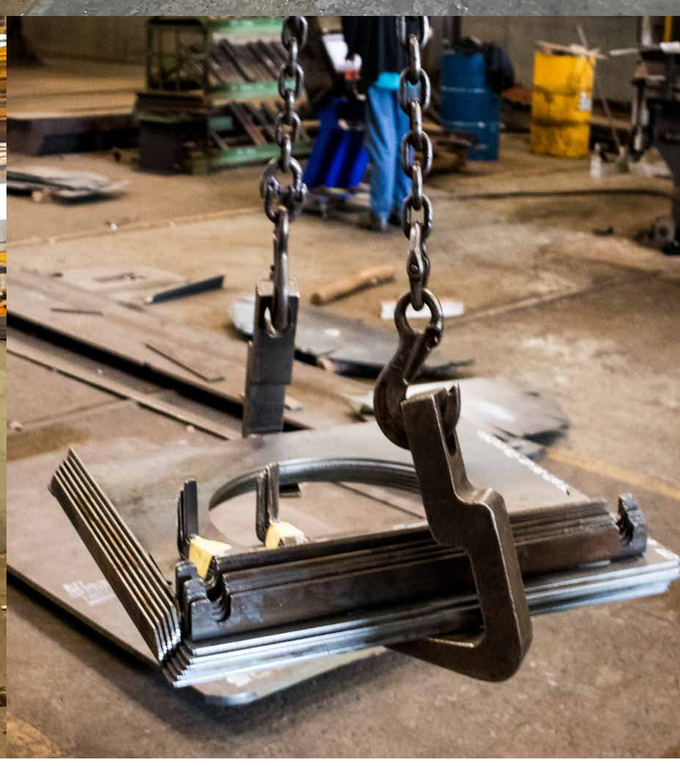
Issue 69
October 2026

STEEL STRONG. SUMMER READY.









STEEL PLATE SOLUTIONS (PTY) LTD

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THE PLATE BULLETIN

STEEL PLATE SOLUTIONS





HOW DOES THE PRICE OF FUEL IMPACT THE PRICE OF STEEL?

- Mark Mitchley

The relationship between fuel prices and steel pricing is multi-faceted. Few commodities share such close linkages like the price of oil and steel pricing.

Fuel and steel are linked through energy costs, shipping and transport logistics and as we have seen with the Middle East War, macro-economic forces. In the case of steel production, energy is one of the largest inputs. The higher the oil price, the higher the cost of electricity, natural gas and freight.



When oil / energy prices increase , steel producers often pass these increased costs onto the downstream industry.

Modern Electric Arc Furnaces which melt scrap steel are particularly exposed to fuel price increases, due to electricity being their largest input.



An increase in the price of fuel affects the entire supply chain. The mining and transport of iron ore, the production of the steel, all consume energy.

Getting the finished product from the steel mill to the end user or port uses fuel. When fuel prices rise, as they have done over the past 8 months, it puts enormous cost pressures on the full cost structure of steel production.

The down stream processors, of which SPS is one, are not left unaffected.

Table from 7 January 2026

Fuel	Region	January	Current	Increase/ litre	Increase
Petrol 93	Inland	R20.64	R29.88	R9.24	**44.8%**
Petrol 95	Inland	R20.75	R30.25	R9.50	**45.8%**
Petrol 95	Coastal	R19.92	R29.38	R9.46	**47.5%**
Diesel 500ppm	Inland	R18.42	R31.95	R13.54	**73.5%**
Diesel 500ppm	Coastal	R17.59	R31.08	R13.50	**76.8%**
Diesel 50ppm	Inland	R18.52	R32.80	R14.28	**77.1%**
Diesel 50ppm	Coastal	R17.69	R31.93	R14.24	**80.5%**

The price of diesel, petrol and LPG have all ***increased dramatically.***

The price of diesel in Gauteng was R20.10/litre in February and this has increased by over 60% this year already. This drives up the cost of cutting and delivering steel.



Not only has the Middle East War caused oil supply routes to be affected but it has also slowed industrial demand and economic activity.

South African buyers are exposed to fuel surcharges from the local Arcelor Mittal Steel mill as well as increased shipping rates.

This has resulted in the price of steel increasing since February 2026. The above actors illustrate the significant impact that oil and fuel price increases have on the price of steel, affecting not only the cost of production but also market demand.

STEEL PLATE SOLUTIONS

A little planning now. A smoother year-end.



As ***October*** draws to a close, the year-end rush starts to feel very real. Project deadlines are approaching, maintenance teams are preparing for shutdown, and those jobs earmarked for “before December” are moving up the priority list.

At ***SPS***, we know this stretch of the year can be a busy one for our customers. Whether you’re finishing a fabrication job, preparing replacement liners or organising steel for work during shutdown, getting your requirements through early gives everyone more time to plan.

What needs to be ready before your team clocks out?

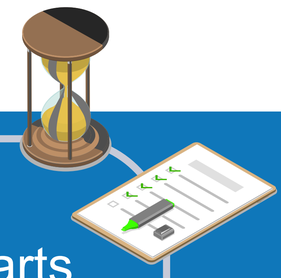
Take a moment to check outstanding drawings, material requirements and approvals.

- **Are there worn components that need replacing?**
- **A project waiting on final quantities?**
- **Or a January job that would benefit from having its steel ready ahead of time?**

Sending through complete drawings, quantities, material grades and required delivery dates helps our team understand what you need and plan accordingly. If something is still being finalised, speak to us early so we can discuss the requirements and timing with you.



PLAN AHEAD



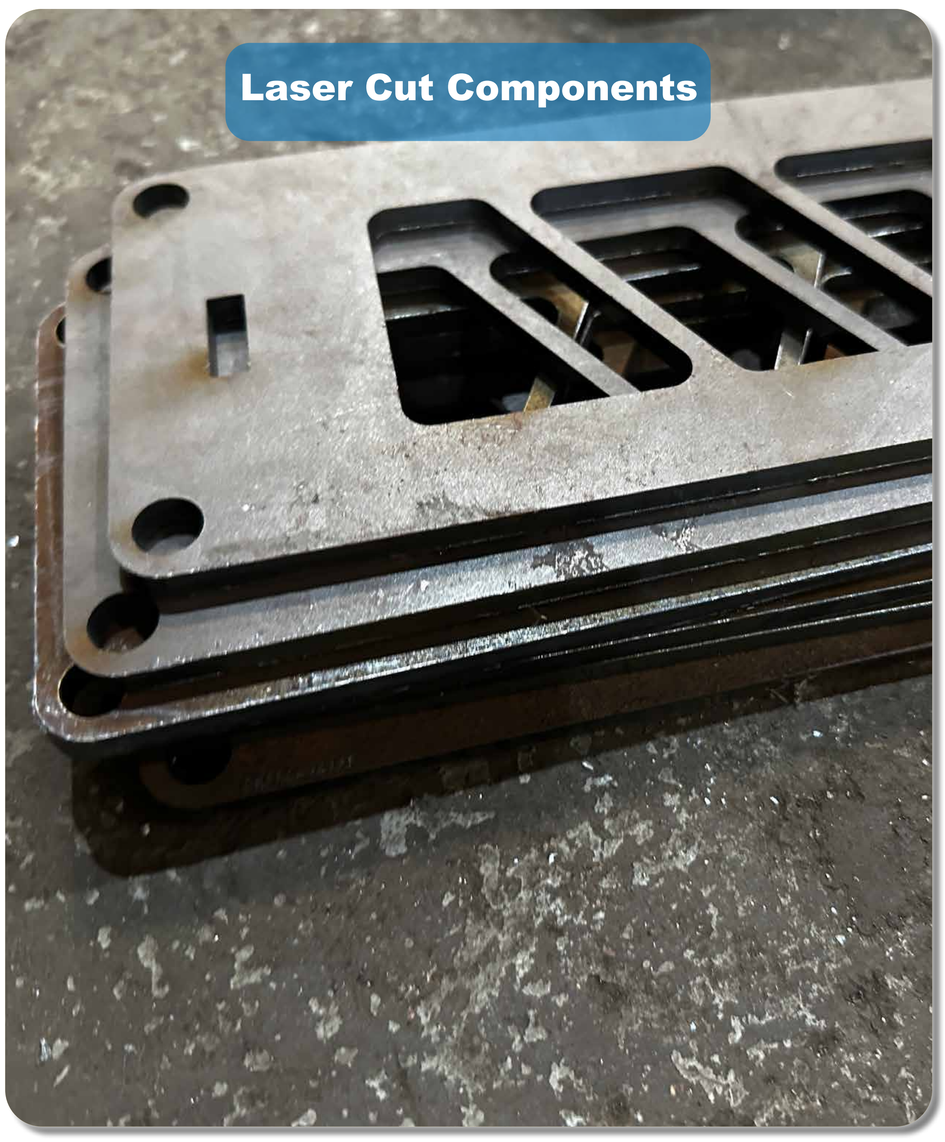
> A smoother year-end starts with knowing what needs to be ready, and when.

Let’s get your year-end requirements on the schedule

Thank you for keeping the ***SPS team*** busy and for trusting us with your projects. Let’s keep things moving as we head into the final stretch of 2026!

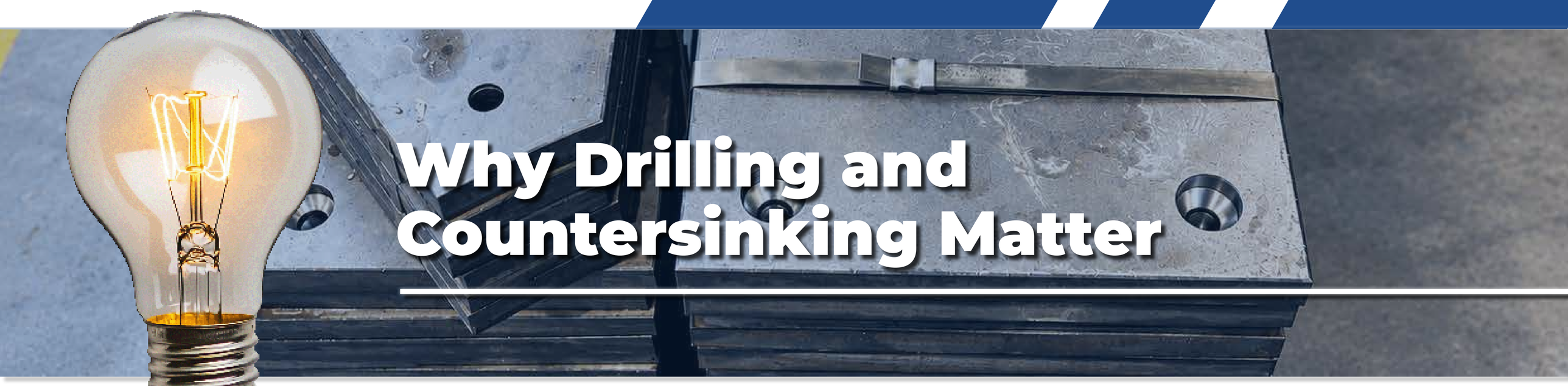








STEEL PLATE SOLUTIONS



Why Drilling and Countersinking Matter

A steel liner might look like a simple plate with a few holes. But when rock, sand or ore moves across it every day, those holes (and how they're finished) have a very important job to do.

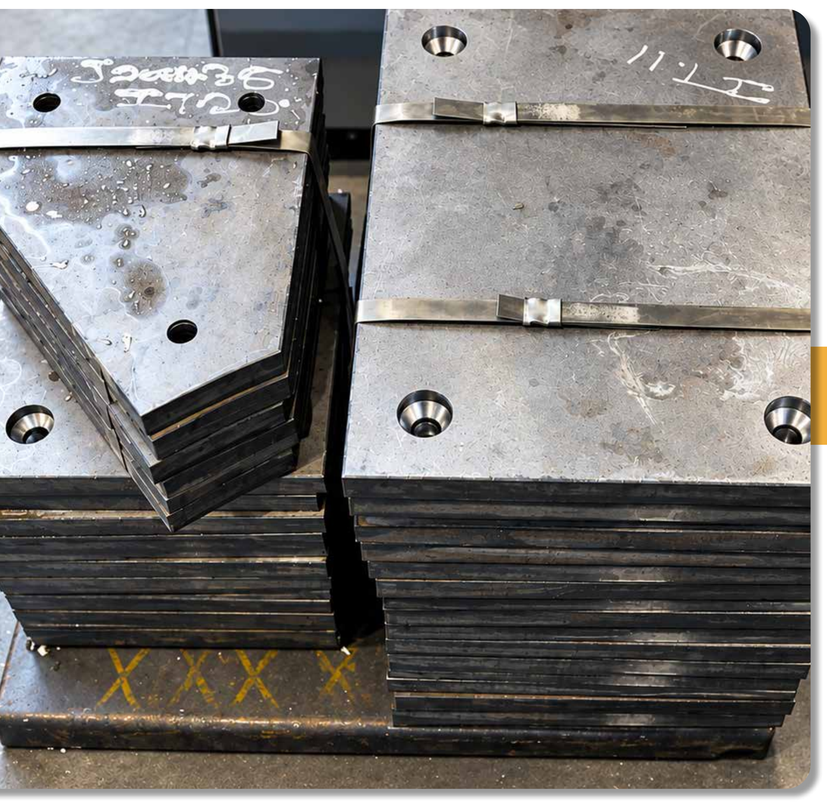
STEEL MADE SIMPLE

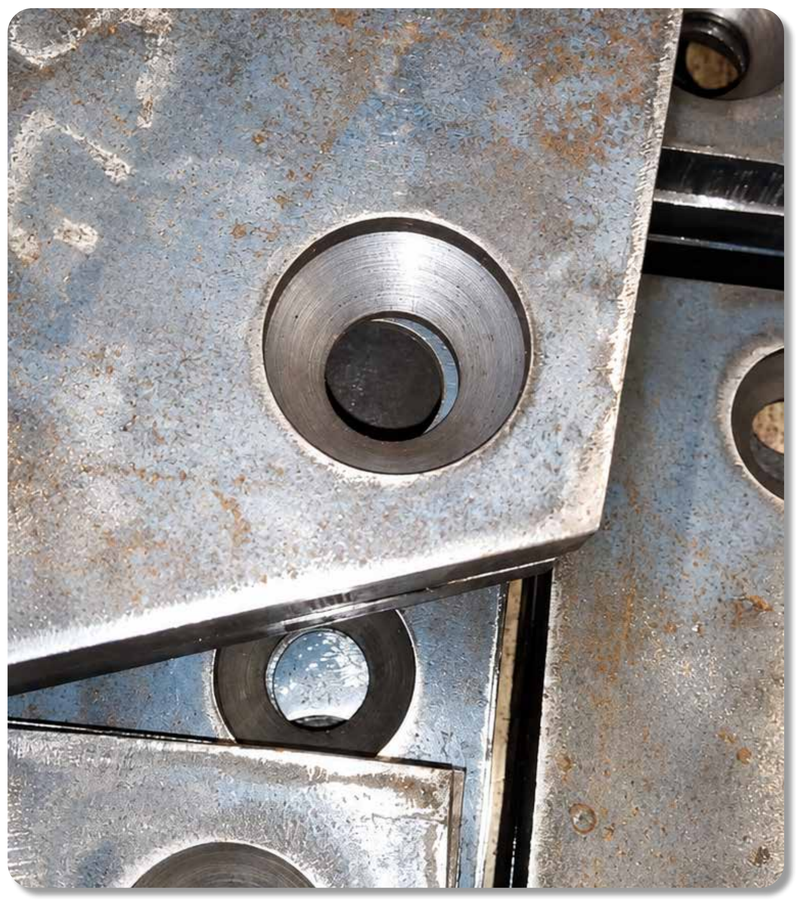
First, what is a liner?

A wear liner is a protective, replaceable layer fitted inside equipment exposed to abrasion. Think of the plates inside a transfer chute, hopper or feeder: they take the wear to help protect the structure underneath. Steel liners are widely used in mining, quarrying and material handling.

Why Drill & countersink?

Drilling creates a hole for the bolt to pass through. Countersinking creates a cone-shaped recess at the hole's opening, allowing a matching bolt head to sit flush with, or below, the plate surface.





In a wear liner, that recess helps shield the bolt head from abrasive material passing over it. The purpose goes beyond a neat finish: a bolt head standing proud of the plate is directly exposed to wear. Bolted liners also allow worn sections to be removed and replaced during maintenance.

How is it done?

The drawing determines the plate dimensions, hole positions and fastener requirements.

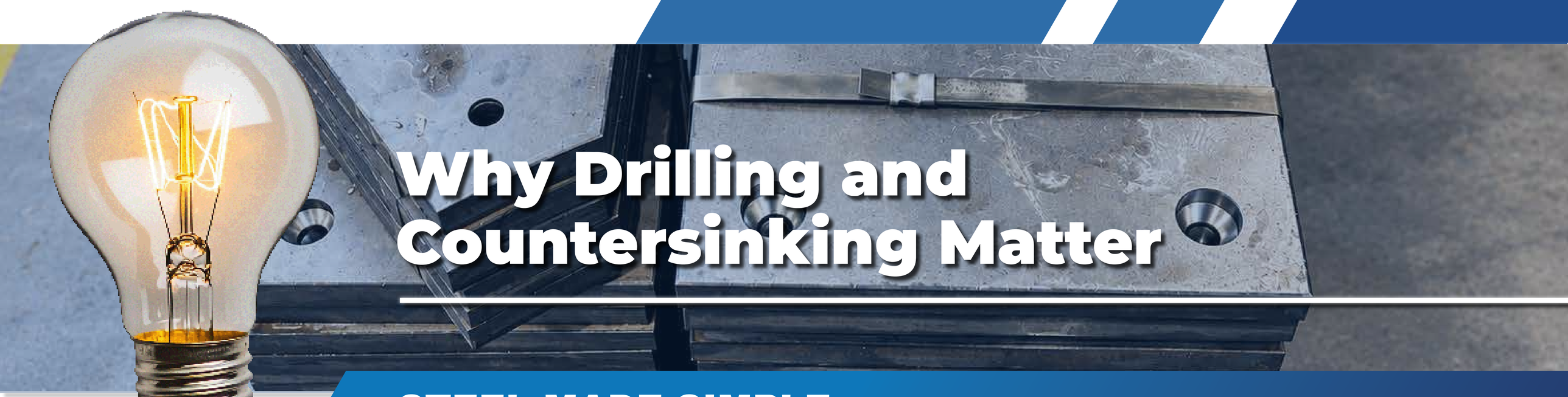
For a machined liner, the plate is securely supported and clamped, the holes are drilled, and a countersinking cutter forms the recesses. Wear-resistant steel needs tooling and cutting conditions suited to its hardness. Machine stability, cutting speed, feed rate and coolant all matter.

> **"Simply increasing the drill speed isn't a shortcut to a better hole; manufacturers specify different settings for different grades and tools."**



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STEEL PLATE SOLUTIONS



Why Drilling and Countersinking Matter

STEEL MADE SIMPLE



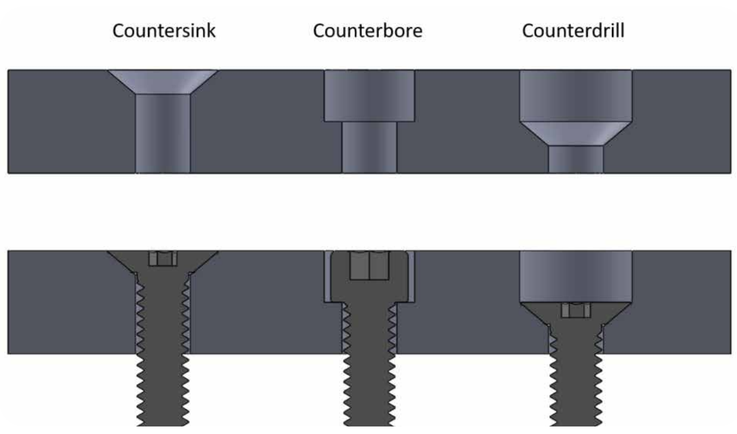
Gaps, trapped dirt or misalignment can compromise the clamping force holding the assembly together. SSAB's guidance highlights clean contact surfaces, properly aligned plates and the specified tightening procedure. A recessed bolt head protects against wear; correct installation keeps the joint secure.

> **A liner takes the wear. The details help keep it in place.**

From the steel grade to the final bolt fit, each detail contributes to a liner that is ready for the job.

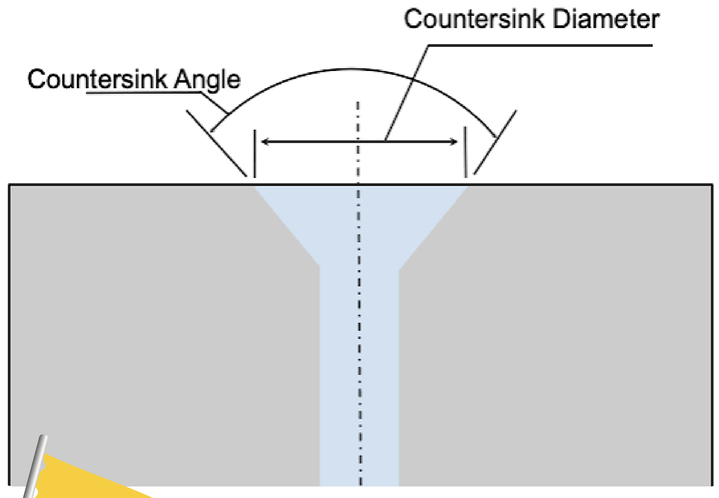
Did You Know?

Hard steel can still be machined. Even Hardox® 600, an extra-hard wear steel, can be drilled and countersunk with suitable equipment and tooling. Hardness makes the process more demanding, but it doesn't make it impossible.



A correctly machined hole is only part of a reliable installation. The liner must also sit properly against its backing plate.





SPECIAL OFFER!

SPS LINERS!

R32,50 per kg

Place your orders for drilled and countersunk liners within the next month to qualify. Send your drawings and requirements to the SPS team for a quote.

Offer Valid Until 30 November 2026!



Contact Us TODAY!

Email: info@platesolutions.co.za
Richards Bay: 035 797 3034
Germiston: 087 291 4441

STEEL PLATE SOLUTIONS

LATEST NEWS
FROM AROUND THE WORLD

PROTEAS:
A tough start against Australia

Australia won October's opening Test at Kingsmead by **214 runs**, however the Proteas won in the 2nd test, which levelled the the series 1-1. The bigger picture? **World Test Championship points are at stake**, so every result matters beyond this rivalry. Plenty for cricket fans to debate around the braai!

Formula 1:
Africa is back on the map

Formula 1 has announced a **10-year agreement** for an African Grand Prix in Rwanda, with racing expected to begin in the early 2030s once a new circuit is completed. It would mark F1's **first race** on the continent since Kyalami in 1993. The planned venue will be near Kigali's new international airport.

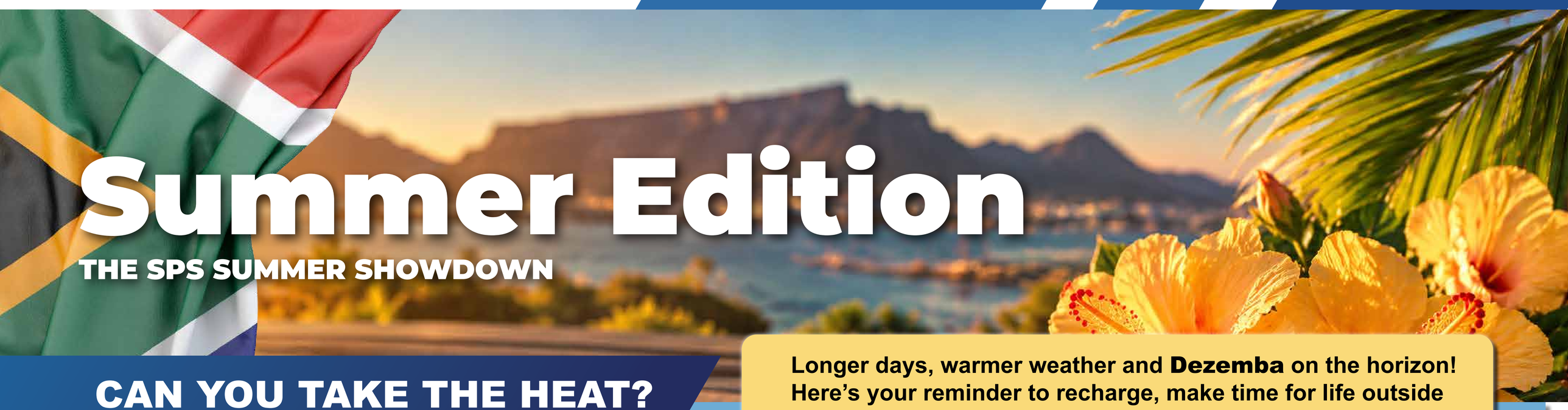
Innovation:
A Tesla that takes flight?

Tesla's latest ***Roadster demonstration*** featured rocket-style thrusters developed with SpaceX, showing the **car jumping and turning in the air**. It's an eye-catching crossover between automotive and aerospace engineering, although ***production is planned for 2028***. For now, think dramatic demonstration rather than a flying solution to your morning traffic!

Spooky Season is upon us..
Fun facts you probably didn't know about Halloween

- In the 1900s, before the telephone was invented, Halloween cards were as popular as Christmas cards.
- Halloween was put on hold for several years during World War II due to sugar rationing.
- Halloween was brought to the U.S. in the 19th century by Irish immigrants.
- Scarecrows symbolize the ancient agricultural roots of the holiday.
- Jack-o'-lanterns are believed to have originated in Ireland in the 19th century.

STEEL PLATE SOLUTIONS



Summer Edition

THE SPS SUMMER SHOWDOWN

CAN YOU TAKE THE HEAT?

Longer days, warmer weather and Dezemba on the horizon! Here's your reminder to recharge, make time for life outside work and enjoy a little summer fun along the way.



Sunshine, steel & a little summer fun!

The days are getting longer, the sleeves are getting shorter, and the office aircon debate is heating up!

We've rounded up a few summer choices to get the conversation going. Pick your favourites, compare with a colleague and see where you agree - or disagree!

There's still room for a little fun between deadlines!

THE GREAT SUMMER DEBATE

Beach holiday	***Bush break***
Ice cream	***Ice lolly***
Boerewors roll	***Burger***
Poolside chilling	***Outdoor adventure***
Sunrise start	***Sunset unwind***
Aircon blasting	***Windows down***

OR

The Best Summer Survival Tips

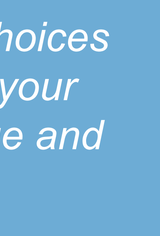
Keep your cool at your desk

When your holiday plans are still weeks away but your desk already feels tropical, a few small things can make the working day more comfortable.

1 Keep water within reach



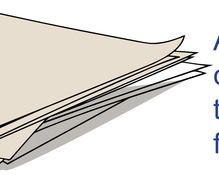
Give your water bottle a permanent spot next to your keyboard. Add lemon or mint if plain water needs a little encouragement.



2 Beat the afternoon glare

Adjust the blinds or move your screen to keep direct sunlight out of your eyes and off your monitor.

3 Make peace with the aircon



Agree on a comfortable setting with your colleagues. A small desk fan can also help keep the air moving, just secure those loose papers first!



4 Give lunch a summer twist



Skip the sad sandwich and pack something fresh, filling and easy to prepare. These ***two ideas*** work well with leftovers:

Chicken, couscous & crunch:
Toss cooked, cooled couscous with shredded chicken, cucumber, cherry tomatoes and feta. Pack a little olive oil and lemon dressing separately and add it when you're ready to eat.



Last night's braai, today's wrap:
Slice leftover braai meat and tuck it into a wrap with shredded cabbage, grated carrot and a spoonful of plain yoghurt or your favourite sauce.

Pack the filling separately and assemble at lunchtime to keep your wrap from going soggy.

5 Take a screen break

Stand up, stretch and refill your water. If you head outside, find a shady spot for a few minutes away from your desk.



6 Don't forget to change it up

Eat lunch with a colleague, share your weekend braai plans or organise an ice-lolly break.

Your Turn!

How do you keep your cool?

A trusty desk fan? Ice-cold water? Or have you claimed the best spot under the aircon?

Send us your best summer survival tip. We'd love to hear it!



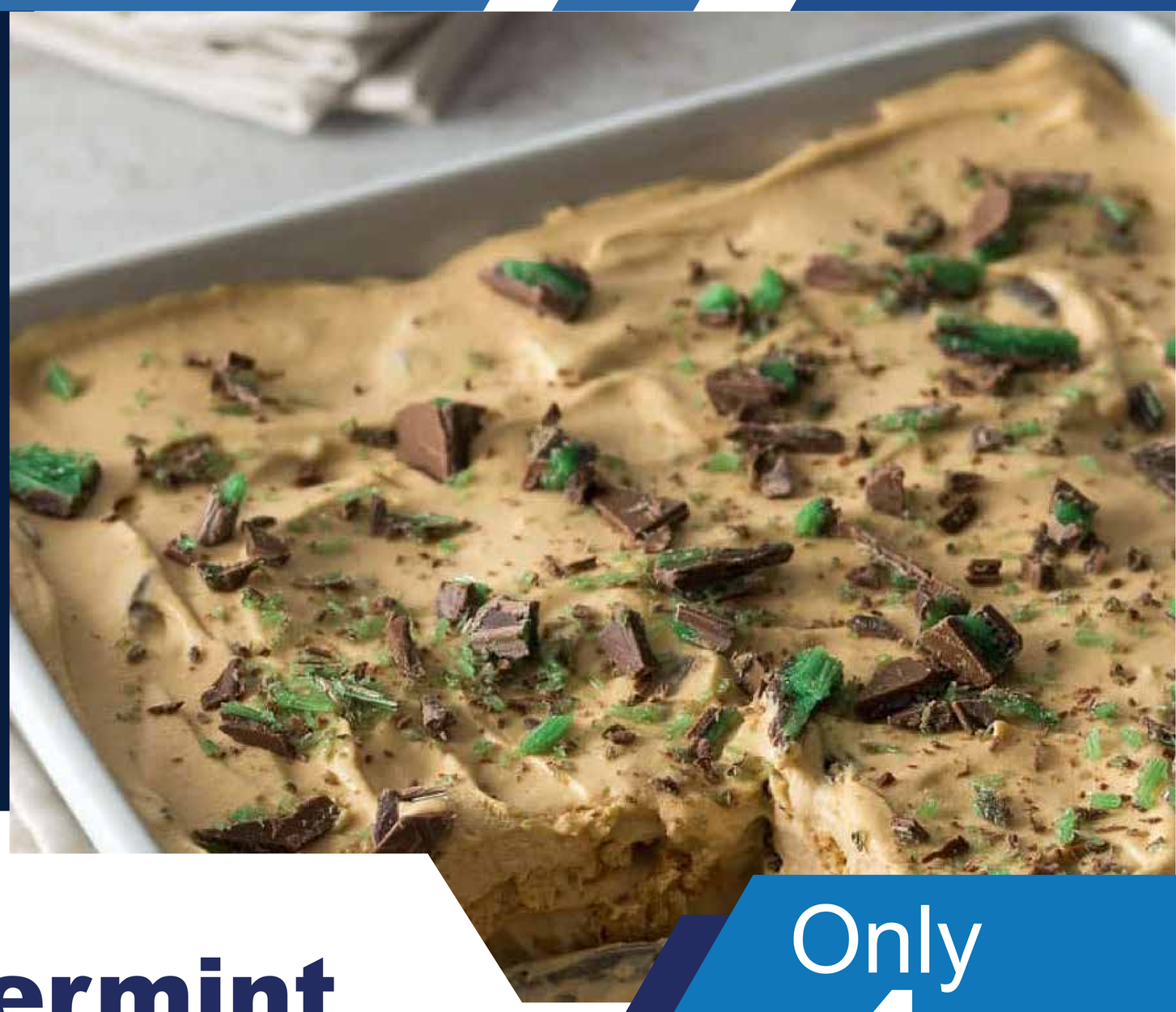
STEEL PLATE SOLUTIONS

RECIPE

OF THE MONTH

A tiiiie Taste of Summer

This no-bake peppermint crisp tart recipe by Angie Dixon is the ultimate make-ahead dessert! A firm favourite in South African kitchens, it's quick to assemble and works beautifully in a large casserole dish or individual servings.



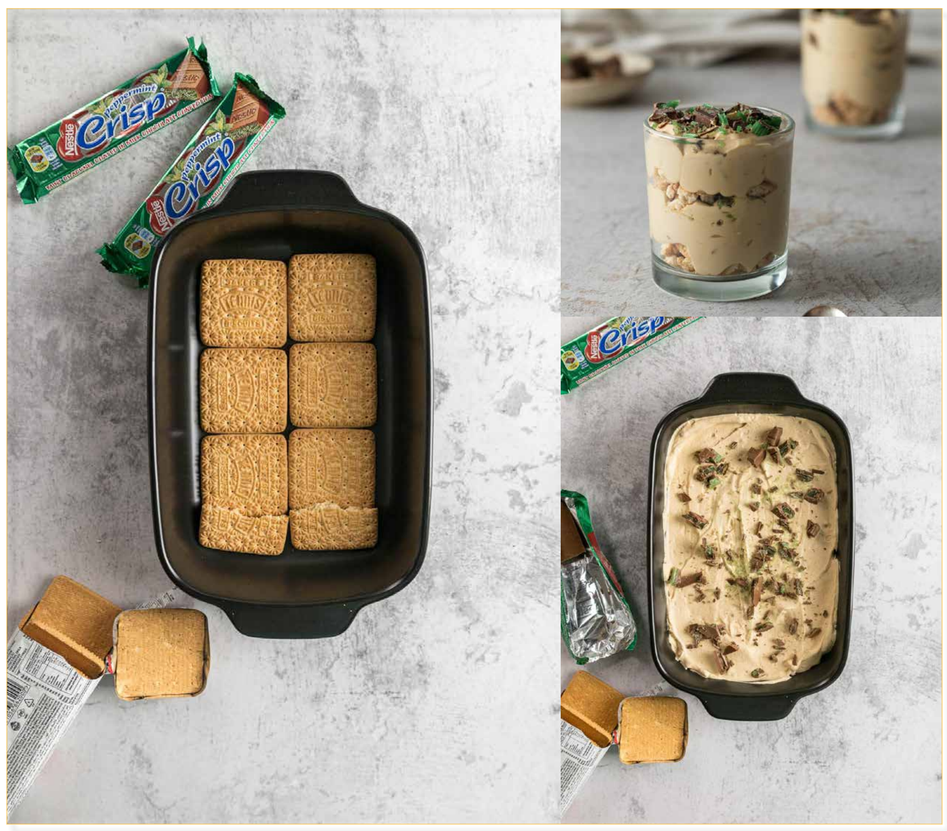
A South African CLASSIC

No-Bake Peppermint Crisp Tart

Only 4 Easy Steps

INGREDIENTS

- 500 ml Heavy Cream **or** Orley Whip
- 2 Peppermint Crisp bars **or** Aero mint bars
- 395 g Caramel Treat
- 1 packet Tennis biscuits



METHOD

1. Place the caramel treat in a bowl and mix with a spoon or fork to loosen up the caramel. Set aside. **Note:** sometimes your caramel will not cooperate, and there will still be small pieces of harder caramel after mixing - this is fine. This dessert is very forgiving, and small chunks (like 2-3mm big) of caramel within the cream are like finding **a golden nugget.** You can also add a teaspoon or two of lemon juice to the caramel before mixing it.

2. Whip the heavy cream to the stiff peak stage. Take 2 - 3 spoonfuls of the whipped cream and mix it into the caramel to loosen the caramel up even further before adding to the cream. Fold the caramel into the cream.

3. Grate or break one of the peppermint crisp bars into the cream mixture and fold through. Or alternatively, you can break or grate the first bar over the first layer of caramel in the step below.

4. Line the bottom of a dish with a layer of tennis biscuits. Spread about half of the cream mixture over the tennis biscuits. Add another layer of tennis biscuits and top with the second half of the cream mixture. Smooth over using the back of a spoon or an offset spatula. Sprinkle the top of the tart with the second peppermint crisp tart. Allow the tart to set in the fridge for at least **2 hours** before serving.



Have a dessert recipe you love?

Send it to us for a chance to be featured on our Recipes page.



Tip:

When whipping the cream, the stiff peaks make a really nice airy dessert.



More of Angie's Recipes:

saltyginger.com

