

Fact sheet: Saving water in the home

We live in the driest inhabited continent in the world, yet we are one of the highest consumers of water per person. Australian households could reduce domestic water use by up to 50% and in some cases perhaps even more if we each followed some simple water saving strategies.

When you consider, you're paying for the water you use, it's worth taking a look at your everyday habits. Using less water is easy. You can continue to enjoy the things you do now whilst saving water.

With the help of some water efficient products, and by making a few minor changes to the way we do things, we can all save water and money, as well as help protect the environment. Let's see where you can cut back on wastage.

Slower flow

Did you know that we use more water in our bathrooms than in any other part of the house?

One of the most effective means of reducing the demand for water is to install a water efficient showerhead. It has been estimated that about 30% of domestic water used indoors is consumed in the shower. A water saving showerhead alone can save about 60 litres of water a day, by slowing down the flow of water released from the showerhead.

It has also been estimated that electricity used for heating this water accounts for almost 20% of all electricity consumed in a typical household. The water efficient showerhead can therefore not only cut down your water consumption but can also contribute to lower water and energy bills.

Setting a waterproof timer in the shower can also assist in keeping shower time to a limit. If you want a long soak, opt for a bath instead. An eight-minute shower using a regular showerhead uses around 120 litres of water alone.

Catch the cold water from the shower in a bucket as you wait for the water to heat up. This water can be then used on your garden. Turning the taps off while lathering shampoo is another simple water saving strategy in the shower.

In the loo too

Were you aware that one fifth of household water is flushed down the toilet and that toilets use more water than any other bathroom fixture?

A standard single flush toilet can use up to 18 litres of water per flush. A water efficient dual flush toilet uses as little as three litres. Install a new dual flush system and you will notice that approximately 67% less water is used than that used by a standard single flush toilet.

When installing a new dual flush system look for toilets with 6/3 litre dual flush, with at least a AAA rating.

You can also save on water used in the toilet by checking if your toilet leaks. Put a few drops of food colouring in the toilet's tank. If the colour appears in the bowl without flushing, you have a leak in your toilet. A leaking toilet can waste more than 16,000 litres of water per year, so please get leaks fixed and schedule regular leak checks.

AAAAA is the way

Installing water efficient appliances is a great way to cut back your water usage.


When buying new appliances such as dishwashers and washing machines, look for a water efficiency label on the product. Avoid purchasing new appliances that are not recognised as water efficient.

The National Water Conservation Labelling Scheme is similar to the Energy Efficiency Rating Scheme. But instead of stars, 'A's are used. The more 'A's a product has the more water efficient that product is.

Take advantage of the latest water efficient devices to not only save water but to also trim your water and energy bills and to help the environment. More information on the AAAAA rating is available at www.wsa.asn.au

Dishwashers use the same amount of water, regardless of how many dishes are in the load. Conserve water by waiting until you have a full load. Similarly, washing machines use a lot of water so remember to wait until you have a full load or choose the appropriate load capacity.

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Similar to the water efficient showerhead, aerators are another option for your household. Aerators restrict the flow of water from your tap without reducing water pressure. Fit an aerator to your household taps to reduce the amount of water you use by more than 50%.

By installing a nine-litre aerator on a tap, you can save about half the amount of water you would use with a standard tap. Alternatively, by installing flow control valves or restrictors you can reduce the volume of water through a tap to between three and 15 litres per minute.

Waterwise behaviour

Simple behavioural changes can also save hundreds of litres of water per year, without affecting your lifestyle.

- Turning off the tap while you brush your teeth can save five litres of water each brush. Please remember not to leave the tap running.
- Put a plug in the sink when washing vegetables, shaving, washing your hands or face, or rinsing the dishes, as opposed to running the tap. This can save over three buckets of water each time.
- Check for leaking pipes or taps. Turn off all taps and water appliances and then read the meter. If the meter dial has moved after 15 minutes, you have a leak. Maintain regular checks for early detection of any leaks that may occur in your household. This will save you both water and money.

If we each implemented simple water saving strategies, together we could take half as much water from the environment, or supply twice as many houses as we do now, with the same amount of water. It is important that we each do what we can to save one of our most precious resources, water. Together we can make a difference. Please remember to always stay waterwise.

For further information

Contact Western Water on 1300 650 425
or visit our website at www.westernwater.com.au