

## 10 Tips to save water in your home

Using less water not only saves you money but uses less energy and reduces greenhouse gas emissions. Try these tips:

1. Register for a free water-efficient showerhead by calling 03 9218 5544 or visit [www.westernwater.com.au](http://www.westernwater.com.au) for more information, including your nearest exchange point. You could save up to 20,000 litres of water per year.
2. Aim to limit your showers to 4 minutes. With an efficient shower head using 9 litres a minute, you will use 36 litres per shower.
3. When purchasing new plants, consider their water needs. Many native Australian plants need little water.
4. Use mulch (straw, woodchips, pebbles etc) on your garden beds to retain moisture in the soil.
5. Put the plug in the sink when you wash your hands, vegetables or dishes. A running tap can use nine litres of water per minute.
6. Fix leaking taps. A leak of one drop per second wastes 7,000 litres of water per year.
7. Turn off the tap while you brush your teeth and save up to five litres of water each time.
8. Install a dual-flush toilet and use only 3 to 4.5 litres of water per flush, compared to older 11 litre single-flush toilets.
9. When buying a new washing machine or dishwasher, choose a water efficient model.
10. Work out how much water your appliances use during each cycle.

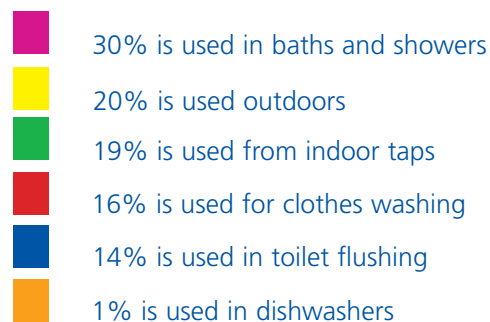
### Attention: Water Restrictions still in place

In many areas of Victoria, rainfall in the past three years is at the lowest level ever. All towns in the Western Water Region remain on Stage 3a water restrictions.

Visit [www.westernwater.com.au](http://www.westernwater.com.au) for information on restrictions and water storage levels or call the Restrictions Hotline on 1300 653 126.

## Where is water used at your home?

Learning where you use water in your home, particularly during the summer months will help you save water and money.



Source: Central Region Sustainable Water Strategy 2005

Save water and money: the State Government's Water Smart Garden and Homes Rebate Scheme offers rebates on selected water saving products to reward you for conserving our precious water resources.

Learn more at [www.ourwater.vic.gov.au](http://www.ourwater.vic.gov.au) or call Western Water on 1300 650 422 to request an application form.

# Business saves water

Bacchus Marsh Hospital, part of Djerriwarrh Health Services, is well on the way to capturing 4.5 million litres of water previously lost in the equipment sterilisation process.

That is a saving of more than 1.5 million toilet half flushes.

Since 2007, Western Water has been working with businesses to help them save water through our waterMAPS program.

waterMAP customers must develop an action plan to use water more efficiently and report their savings to Western Water.

Through ingenuity, Bacchus Marsh Hospital has reduced their water use significantly, graduating from waterMAPS to be recognised as water savers.



**Installation of the underground cooling water tank at Bacchus Marsh Hospital**

# Increase in tariffs

As advised in July 2008, this bill will reflect the increase in the price of water as set by the Essential Services Commission (ESC).

More than a decade of below average rainfall has significantly impacted on Western Water and the cost of supplying water to our customers has increased.

We need a secure supply of safe and good tasting water for the future. This means purchasing water from other sources and developing appropriate infrastructure.

Western Water offers payment options for people who are having difficulties paying their water bills. If you receive a concession, the Department of Human Services has increased it by 14.8% plus CPI, or approximately \$30 per year.

**For more information call 1300 650 422 or visit [www.westernwater.com.au](http://www.westernwater.com.au)**

Service Access and Usage Charges		
Customer type	Residential	Non-Residential
Service Access	\$155.02 per year	\$155.02 per year
Wastewater	\$418.99 per year	\$418.99 per year
Usage (per 4 month billing period)	0 - 53 kilolitres: \$0.9966 per kilolitre	\$1.3220 per kilolitre
	53-106 kilolitres: \$1.3220 per kilolitre	
	> 106 kilolitres: \$2.6441 per kilolitre	

# What's happening in your town?

With continuing drought, Western Water is committed to water conservation, securing our drinking supply and developing recycled water as an alternative source to potable water. Here are some of the projects in our works program:

## Melton Class A Recycled Water Plant – \$7.2 million

- Class A recycled water is now being produced at Surbiton Park, Melton. In a first for our region, Class A recycled water will be supplied to residents of Eynesbury, the Melton South growth corridor and Toolern Precinct as they are developed. This will save precious drinking water in each household by up to 50%.

## Melton Sewerage Upgrade – \$13.3 million

- Work continues on development of the 6km gravity sewer main. The new sewer will cater for the growing population of the Melton region as well as reduce greenhouse gas emissions by replacing the pumping station at Blamey Drive.

## Melton Recycled Water Plant – \$13.3 million

- Construction continues on the Melton Recycled Water Plant to increase capacity to treat inflowing water from Melton and surrounds. Recycled water, produced at the plant is supplied to the Class A recycled water plant for further treatment. It also produces biosolids, a nutrient rich organic material that can be used as a soil improver and fertiliser.

## Gisborne Recycled Water Plant – Project cost \$3.1 million

- Commissioning is underway at the newly upgraded Gisborne Recycled Water Plant. The plant will have an increased capacity

to better cater for the growing population of Gisborne.

## Sunbury Recycled Water Storage – \$1.8 million

- More recycled water will be able to be stored at Sunbury Recycled Water Plant due to construction of new storages. This will enable recycled water to be consistently supplied, particularly during peak use in summer, for community parks, schools, sporting grounds and local farms.

## Loch Road Drinking Water Tank \$2.3 million

- Construction of a 3.5 million litre tank in Mt Macedon will increase the storage capacity of drinking water for residents of Mt Macedon and Macedon and be an essential resource for CFA firefighting efforts.

## Regional water main replacement - \$4 million

- Western Water is identifying and replacing ageing water reticulation systems. This will help to reduce water loss through leakage and pipe breaks as well as help maintain water quality.

## Woodend Recycled Water Plant - Project cost \$6.1 million

- Works are due to start early next year at the Woodend Recycled Water Plant. The completed project will increase the quality and quantity of recycled water for the town's parks, sporting grounds and local agriculture.