

Be Smart Water Smart



Water Smart Indoors

In the Bathroom...

- Install AAA showerheads - they can save around 10 litres of water a minute.
- Turn off the tap while you are brushing your teeth - this can save up to 5 litres of water every day for the average household.
- Install dual flush toilets - in an average household they can save about 60 litres of water every day.
- A continuously running toilet can waste 200 litres of water per year. Check for leaks by putting a little food colouring in the tank, if the water in the bowl begins to change colour, without flushing, then you have a leak that needs to be fixed.
- Take shorter showers and smaller baths.

In the Kitchen...

- Install aerating taps - they are inexpensive and can reduce water flow by 50% without reducing efficiency.
- Clean and peel vegetables in a plugged sink instead of using running water.
- Make sure the dishwasher is full before you start a washing cycle. Dishwashers use 25-45 litres of water per load.
- When washing dishes by hand, don't rinse under running water. If you have two sinks fill one with rinsing water, if not stack the dishes and re-fill the sink with rinsing water after all the dishes are done.

In the Laundry...

- Use a AAA rated washing machine - they use less than 72 litres of water per cycle.
- Don't wash part loads of clothes - wait until you can put a full load on. Make sure you adjust the water level to fit the load.

Water Smart Outdoors

In the Garden...

- Reduce the amount of lawn you have and choose a lawn variety that needs less water. A lawn can use more water per square metre than any other area of your garden.
- Keep your lawn at 2cm or higher – taller grass holds water better.
- Don't water in the heat of the day when a lot of the water will evaporate.
- Water the roots and not the leaves.
- Mulch your garden - this keeps weeds down, keeps the soil cool in summer and reduces evaporation.
- Use drip irrigation - it is easy to set up and uses water efficiently.
- Use a timer on your garden sprinkler - a forgotten sprinkler wastes more than 1,000 litres of water an hour.
- Make sure sprinklers are watering the garden or lawn, not the footpath or road.
- Soak gardens and lawns every fourth day in summer rather than giving a quick drink every day. Plants will become hardier and roots will grow deeper looking for moisture.
- Ensure your hose and sprinklers are in good condition. Repair leaks and tighten up and replace fittings as necessary.
- Plant trees that provide the garden with shade and wind protection.

Around the House...

- Regularly check that down pipes and taps are not leaking - a dripping tap can waste the equivalent of ten bathtubs of water a month.
- Use a broom and not a hose to clean paths.
- Wash your car on the lawn (if water restrictions permit this). Car washing detergents, in moderation, help fertilise lawn.
- If you have a pool, use a pool cover to reduce evaporation. Evaporation can result in a loss of up to 300 litres of water a day. Make sure you check your pool regularly for leaks.
- Use a rainwater tank to catch water from house and shed roofs. The water collected can be used on gardens and lawns and around the house.

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