

Water saving tips

Have you considered all the ways you can reduce your household water use?

A few of the simplest ideas are listed below. (You should also ask your friends and neighbours about what they are doing to save water: they may have ideas you haven't thought of yet.)

Fix any leaks

- **Fixing leaks** may be an obvious answer, but not all leaks are visible, so how do you know if you have a hidden leak? Pick a day when there will be nobody at home and make sure that no water using appliances are on. Read your meter just before you leave for the day and read it again as soon as you arrive home before you use any water. If the second reading is higher, you have a leak. It may be worthwhile contacting a licensed plumber to help locate and fix the leak.

Bathroom

- **Install water-efficient showerheads and limit showering to four minutes.**

Compare:

- water-efficient showerhead, four minute shower uses 48 litres (approximately 4.8 buckets)
- high flow showerhead, 10 minute shower uses 250 litres (approximately 25 buckets)



A household of four people, all having 10 minute showers using a high flow showerhead, will use approximately 1,000 litres a day, just in the shower.

- **Turn off the tap more often.** Do you really need to keep the tap running for the whole time you are cleaning your teeth, shaving (legs as well), or washing your hair?
- **Install a dual flush toilet.** Don't flush unnecessarily and don't flush rubbish down the toilet. State government rebates may be available to help you with the cost of changing to a dual flush toilet.



Laundry

- **Buy a water-efficient washing machine.** Grants or rebates may be available from the state government to help with this cost. Always wash with a full load and with the lowest effective water setting available. Re-use the water on your garden (but not on vegetable gardens).



Kitchen

- **Dishwashers.** Use a water-efficient dishwasher, only use when it's full and use the economy setting.
- **Don't let the tap run.** If you have to rinse fruit, vegies or dishes, use a plug and half fill the sink. Scraping dishes under a running tap uses around seven litres a minute. If you must run hot water to get it hot, catch the cold water and re-use it. Avoid in-sink garbage disposal units. Composting vegetable scraps can improve your garden and in turn reduce the amount of water it needs.
- **Food and cooking.** Keep a jug of cold water in the fridge instead of running the tap for cold water. Don't use over sized saucepans, they use more water than necessary. Don't thaw food under running water.

Home WaterWise Service

- **Book a Home WaterWise Service** for only \$20 (worth \$150). It includes supply and installation of a low flow shower head, water-efficient aerators for bathroom and kitchen taps and fixing up to three leaking taps. Call 137 584 to book.

Outside the home

As residents, we've been 'water smart' in the way we use water in our homes, but **changing our gardening habits** can also make a significant difference. With a few simple steps, you can change the water needs of your garden while still meeting the Target 140 challenge:

- **Use a broom** to sweep paved outdoor areas.
- Minimise lawn areas and **plant water-efficient** native trees and plants.
- Use **mulch and smart watering habits** such as filling an old plastic water bottle with a pin-sized hole in the lid and place at the base of the plant or tree to ensure slow and deep watering.
- Install a **rainwater tank** as an alternative supply.
- Use a **pool cover**.
- Put a bucket in the shower and **reuse shower water** on your garden/outdoor area.

For more information, phone Logan Water on 3412 5494.