



Water Conservation Fact Sheet

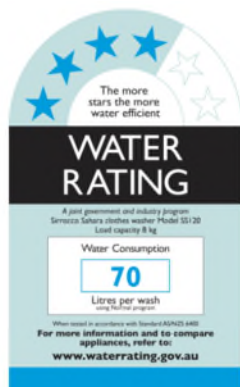
REDUCING WATER USE

Your home

There are many ways to save water usage around your home. This not only helps conserve a valuable resource but will help to put more money back into the household budget. Being water wise will also help the environment through:

- reducing the amount of contaminants and detergents released by wastewater into our river and oceans
- keeping the water in supply areas such as lakes and dams that are needed to support valuable ecosystems.

Using the Water Efficiency Labelling and Standards scheme (WELS) when choosing household goods. By using this an average house could save around \$120.00 in their water bill each year and a further \$120.00 in power costs by reducing the hot water use.



A WELS star rating label indicates water efficiency for consumers

Tips to reduce water use

Apart from choosing water-efficient showers, toilets, taps and appliances using WELS, the following tips can also make a huge difference to how much water is used by your household.

- Check regularly for leaks or dripping taps or toilets that don't function properly.
- Use the half-flush button after using the toilet when appropriate.
- Turn taps off when not being used. Simply by turning the tap off when brushing your teeth can save over 11 600L a year.
- Wash fruit and vegetables in a sink instead of under running water. A kitchen tap uses about nine (9) litres per minute.
- Make sure you have a full load of washing before using your washing machine and use the economy cycle if your machine has one. Using water-saving settings or suds-save function will also help. Greywater from your washing machine can be diverted for watering of your garden. Greywater needs to be used with care and with responsibility. Never allow greywater to:
 - pond
 - run-off to neighbouring properties
 - cause an odour.
- Don't rinse dishes before placing in dishwasher (compost your food scraps). Fully load machine before using and use economy cycle, if possible.
- Use a plug in a sink to wash dishes by hand; don't let the tap run continuously.
- Have a professional check the release valves on your water heater to make sure it is working to minimise water release according to manufacturer's recommendation.
- Remember to turn off air-conditioning units and other cooling units when going on holidays or you are not at home.
- Use a cover on a pool to minimise evaporation.

Source: <https://www.yourhome.gov.au/water/reducing-water-use>

FACT SHEET

Water Conservation

- Keep shower time to a minimum (limit to 4 minutes or less). According to Your Home government website, spending 2 minutes less in the shower each day can save over \$30 per person per year. Reducing shower time from 7 to 4 minutes will save up to 36 litres of water.



WATER WISE GARDENS

With less rainfall and hotter weather predicted over the coming years, it is best to consider creating a garden that is water-wise. By adopting water-efficient gardening practices you will not only help to save water but you will also help to create a sanctuary that will provide valuable habitat for wildlife and help to reduce the greenhouse effect.

PLANNING YOUR GARDEN

Taking the time to improve your soil is one of the keys ways you can help to save water. You can improve your garden's soil by adding mulch, organic matter through composting or worm farms) or wetting agents. Composting and mulching will also help to prevent water loss through evaporation.

Other matters to consider include:

1. Group plants according to their water needs to avoid overwatering some plants due to their proximity to a heavy drinker.
2. Get the right irrigation system. Sprinklers can lose up to 45% of water to evaporation. Instead use efficient irrigation systems like dripper hoses which provide water directly to the base of the plants.
3. Water in the cool of the day, either in the early morning or evening, as it avoids water loss through evaporation.
4. Longer deep soaks are better than handheld watering.
5. Install a rainwater tank to collect and reuse rainwater around your home.
6. Consider planting native trees and shrubs.

Other Resources

You can find out more information on how to make your usage of water at your home more sustainable through the following links.

<https://www.yourhome.gov.au/water>

<https://www.qld.gov.au/housing/public-community-housing/public-housing-tenants/looking-after-your-home/water/water-saving-hints>

[Using water wisely | Environment, land and water | Queensland Government \(www.qld.gov.au\)](http://www.qld.gov.au)

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