



Being waterwise in your home

All year round we use a lot of water inside our homes. About half of the water used by households is used up inside the home. If we all reduced our usage, even by a small amount, a lot of water can be saved.

Simple measures like installing a water efficient appliance or plumbing fitting enable us to save water whenever they are being used. Look for the 'AAA' ratings applied by Standards Australia to many water-using appliances and plumbing fittings.

In addition, we can save water by changing our habits, like taking shorter showers. Water conservation in the home is an important way to protect our precious resource.

Here are 10 practical ways to save water in your home without affecting your lifestyle.

Toilet

1. Too many flushes

The toilet is a big user of water in the home, with anything from 3 to 11 litres needed for every half or full flush. It is surprising how many people use the toilet to flush away cigarette butts, tissues and other rubbish. Apart from the potential to cause problems in the sewerage or septic system, this practice wastes large volumes of water.

2. The unseen leak

A leaking toilet cistern can be extremely wasteful - up to 16,000 litres of water in a year, and you might not even be aware of it! To check your cistern, place a few drops of food colouring in the tank. Without flushing it, look for colouring in the toilet bowl. If it's

getting through, you've got a leak, and it's time to call a plumber

Shower

3. Keep it short

Long, hot showers waste water and power. So keep your showers short. Conventional showers typically use around 25 litres of water per minute. A minute or two less showering time adds up to a lot of water over a year.

Bath

4. Relaxing soak

For a long, relaxing soak, a bath will use less water than a long shower.

Dishwasher

5. Run it full

Dishwashers can be thirsty items.

Even a dishwasher with a low water use rating can use the equivalent of two sinks of water per wash. Older models can use as much as 50 litres of water. The way to save water is to operate your dishwasher only when it is full. This way you will also save on your power bills.

Washing Machine

6. Save those suds

Washing machines are major users of water in the home.

As with dishwashers, try not to operate



them with small loads. If you are buying a new machine look for Standards Australia ratings which indicate good water efficiency: the more 'A's the better.

Consider buying a front loading machine. They generally use less water than top loaders.

Use the suds saver option if you have several loads to put through.

Taps

7. Stop leaks

Check for worn tap washers. A dripping tap might not appear to be wasting much water, but it quickly adds up.

Repair leaking pipes. A single leak over a long period can waste thousands of litres.

Don't let water run while carrying out tasks such as rinsing dishes, washing fruit and vegetables or washing your hands. A tap running strongly can use 15 litres or more per minute. People who regularly keep the tap running while cleaning their teeth may use about 11,000 litres per year in the process. You could save this water by using a glass to rinse out your mouth. When shaving use the plug and run some water into the basin instead of leaving the tap running.

8. Catch the cold water

Water is wasted each time cold water is flushed from a hot water pipe. Keep containers near the sink and shower, and use this excess on the garden or indoor plants.

General Maintenance

9. Hidden leaks

Undetected leaks can be extremely wasteful and costly. A way to check for leaks is to read the water meter late at night and early the next morning to see if water was running while everyone was asleep.

10. Reduce the pressure

High water pressure increases flow rates

from showers, taps, leaks and drips. If you have extreme high water pressure, a registered plumber can fit a pressure reduction valve at your property boundary.

Reducing your water pressure will also reduce water hammer which is a banging noise that can occur when you turn a tap off.

Remember to get professional advice from a Waterwise plumber (contact the Plumbing Industry Association of Australia for details on 08 8292 4000 for details).

This fact sheet was adapted from:
http://www.ourwaterfuture.com.au/waterwise/menu_home.asp

Further water saving tips can be found at :

[Http://www.ourwaterfuture.com.au/waterwise/menu_home.asp](http://www.ourwaterfuture.com.au/waterwise/menu_home.asp)

<http://www.onkaparinga.net>

