

waterfacts

Saving water

There are many opportunities for householders to save water.

Conserving water both sustains the supply and saves on water charges.

Here's a typical breakdown of how water is used in and around the home

Graph to come

The best opportunity to make savings is inside the home, but there are also things you can do outside.

The following are some facts and suggestions on how to save water in and around the house. There's more you can do than just turning off the tap while you brush your teeth.

A quick shower uses less hot water than a full bath tub –showers use 15-20 litres per minute

Consider installing low flow, water efficient showerheads and taps –save 1000 litres a week

Don't use toilets as a waste basket –one flush can use up to 18 litres of water

Install a dual flush toilet –in a year a single flush toilet can use 30,000 litres of water to dispose of 650 litres of body waste

Wash in cold water –90% of the energy used to wash clothes goes into heating the water

Use a clothes washer with conservation features and do full loads –use is 150–250 litres per wash

Dishwashers use more than 3 times as much as a hand wash –only use a machine once per day, and the short cycle can save up to 70%

Wash your vegetables in a bowl or plugged sink, rather than under running water

Compost fruit and vegetable scraps -waste disposal units use on average 30 litres per day

Consider using a commercial car wash that recycles water, or if you wash your own car do it on the grass –water your lawn while reducing the risk of contaminants reaching the harbour

Running a hose to wash your car uses 400 litres, using a bucket saves 300 litres

Don't let taps or pipes drip –a dripping taps wastes 7,000 litres per year

Mulch your garden –it retains moisture in the soil and controls weeds which compete with plants for water

Sweep driveways and paved areas rather than using the hose

Position sprinklers so water reaches its target

Measure rainfall to show when to water and how much to apply

Water gardens well every second day, in the morning or evening, and lawns twice a week to encourage deeper rooting

Raise the height of your lawn mower –grass roots grow deeper and shaded soil holds more moisture

Use a timer as a reminder with unattended sprinklers –they can use more than 1000 litres per hour

Install a rainwater tank –its use in the laundry, toilet flushing and watering the garden can reduce household demand by up to 65% and also reduces stormwater problems

The use of water-wise plants, such as native species, and rain gardens require less water