

21 ways to save water in your home and garden

There are many easy ways you can help the environment by saving water. Use the following suggestions to save even more water in your home.

WATER SAVING IDEAS FOR YOUR BATHROOM

SHOWERHEADS

A simple change like installing a AAA-rated showerhead could save your household up to \$50 in water and energy costs every year.

TAPS

Install AAA-rated water efficient taps and consider lever and mixer models. AAA-rated taps use 50% less water than standard tap fittings. Always replace leaking washers and turn taps off gently to make the washers last longer.

TOILETS

Install a AAA-rated dual flush toilet so that you can choose to flush only half of the cistern's water. AAA-rated toilets use around 67% less water than a standard single flush toilet. Leaking toilet cisterns and flush mechanisms should be repaired immediately as they can waste thousands of litres of water every day. Food dye placed in the cistern will show in the bowl if there is a leak.

SHAVING

To rinse your razor, run a little water into the sink with the plug in, rather than rinsing it under a running tap in an unplugged sink.

BRUSHING YOUR TEETH

There's no need to leave the tap running while you brush. Simply wet your toothbrush before you begin and use a glass of water to rinse your mouth.

WATER SAVING IDEAS FOR YOUR LAUNDRY

WASHING YOUR CLOTHES

Washing machines that have a load adjustment should be set to match the load of clothes. If you can't adjust your machine, wait until you can do a full load if possible.

BUY A 4A-RATED WASHING MACHINE

When looking for your next washing machine, consider buying a minimum 4A-rated machine. They use less water than older top loading machines and use less energy and detergent.

WATER SAVING IDEAS FOR YOUR KITCHEN

HAND WASHING DISHES

Rinse dishes in a plugged sink rather than under a running tap.

CLEANING VEGETABLES

Wash vegetables in a plugged sink or basin of water rather than under a running tap.

DRINKING WATER

Keep a container of drinking water in the fridge so that you won't need to run water down the plughole until the water is cool enough to drink.

AUTOMATIC DISHWASHERS

To save water and energy wait until you have a full load before you wash. Newer, AAA-rated models use 64% less water than older dishwashers and also save energy.

THE WATER CONSERVATION RATING SCHEME EXPLAINED

The Water Conservation Rating scheme is used to identify appliances that are water efficient. The more 'A's an appliance has, the greater the water efficiency. The scheme applies to showerheads, dishwashers, washing machines, taps and other items. Look for the Water Conservation Rating label on water efficient products and appliances.



GO SLOW
on the
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21 ways to save water in your garden and home

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WATER SAVING IDEAS FOR YOUR GARDEN



💧 **CONSULT SYDNEYWATER.COM.AU FOR DETAILS OF CURRENT WATER RESTRICTIONS**

💧 **WASHING YOUR CAR**

Use a bucket. Park the car so the rinse water can run onto the lawn. That way you can water and fertilise your lawn. Car shampoos use phosphates, which can benefit grassy areas in a similar way to many fertilisers.

💧 **MOWING YOUR LAWN**

Avoid cutting lawns too short, and use the clippings as mulch to keep moisture in the ground.

💧 **WATERING YOUR GARDEN**

By watering early morning or late afternoon you can reduce the water wasted through evaporation. Rainwater tanks can provide water for your garden on those very hot days.

💧 **WATERING EFFICIENTLY**

Use watering cans and trigger sprays on hoses so you water only those areas that need it.



💧 **CLEANING UP**

Use a broom instead of the hose to clean paths, driveways and paved areas.

💧 **PLANTING A GARDEN**

Select local natives and other waterwise plants and lawns that use less water, require less maintenance and attract native wildlife. Some buffalo lawns have deep roots that make them more drought tolerant, they also don't need watering as often as other lawn types.

💧 **WATERING PLANTS**

Water the base of plants, not the leaves. Consider how quickly the soil absorbs the water before it runs off.

💧 **PLANTING NEW GARDEN BEDS**

Group plants with similar watering needs together as this helps ensure they all receive the correct amount of water.

💧 **MULCHING**

Use mulch and add organic material such as compost to the soil. They will help the soil retain moisture and reduce evaporation by up to 70%.

CHECK YOUR METER

Leaks in pipes can be detected by checking the meter reading before you go to bed (or when nobody uses any water) and comparing the reading in the morning. If the reading is higher, you may have a leak, which needs to be traced and repaired by a licensed plumber.

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