

Around the home

A few simple one-off modifications to fittings and appliances can save water.

- ◆ Install a rainwater tank to decrease your use of town water and reduce your water bills.
- ◆ Have a licensed plumber install flow restrictors and aerators into taps around the home.
- ◆ Turn off all taps properly and check the condition of washers to reduce wastage.
- ◆ Use a broom to sweep outdoor areas rather than hosing them down.
- ◆ Use a trigger hose or bucket when washing your car and try to wash it on the lawn.
- ◆ Install water-efficient appliances.

Also, check regularly for leaks, and keep all water fittings and equipment in good condition.



Saving water for the future

Queensland has unique challenges in supplying its growing population with water. It is becoming increasingly important to use water efficiently.

Treating water for use in homes and businesses requires costly and energy-intensive infrastructure, which impacts on the environment. We cannot rely on rainfall to provide us with a never-ending supply of water, so it is important that we reduce our water consumption and use water efficiently.

Water sustainability is vital for all Queenslanders. By using water wisely, we can all help to make sure we have enough water now, and in the future. Make a difference today!

More information

Other water efficiency information is available on the Department of Energy and Water Supply website at www.dews.qld.gov.au, on the Smart Approved WaterMark website at www.smartwatermark.info/home and the WELS (Water Efficiency and Labelling Standards) scheme at www.waterrating.gov.au.

Contact your local council or water service provider for more information and to check whether any water restrictions apply in your area.

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waterwise
Queensland

How to be waterwise

Water for our future



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Be waterwise

Water is a precious resource and we need to conserve it now and in the future. By changing some of your habits, you can:

- ◆ save water
- ◆ save money
- ◆ save the environment.

Being waterwise is easy. Make a difference today!

Bathroom

We use more water in our bathrooms than in any other internal part of the house. It's a great place to start when looking for ways to save water. Here are some water-saving ideas.

- ◆ Turn off the tap when brushing your teeth or shaving—this can save up to 15 litres a minute.
- ◆ Take a shorter shower—this will save both water and electricity/gas.
- ◆ Install a water-efficient showerhead (3-star WELS Scheme rated or better).
- ◆ Install a 4-star WELS Scheme rated dual-flush toilet—you can save up to 8 litres of water with every flush.
- ◆ Insert a plug when using a bath or basin and only fill the bath to one third full.

Tip: A leaking toilet can waste more than 60 000 litres of water each year. Check for leaks by putting a little food colouring in the tank. If the colouring begins appearing in the bowl without flushing, have the cistern rubber repaired immediately. (Flush the toilet clean as soon as you have completed this test.)



Kitchen

Water use in the kitchen contributes to 13 per cent of total water consumption on average. There are many ways to save water in the kitchen.

- ◆ Use the dishwasher. Running a full load in a water-efficient dishwasher uses less water than washing dishes by hand.
- ◆ Scrape and soak your dishes to remove food—avoid rinsing them under running water.
- ◆ Rinse vegetables in a bowl and then use the water on your garden.
- ◆ Store drinking water in the fridge—running the tap until the water is cool wastes up to 15 litres per minute.

Laundry

The best way to save water in the laundry is to use a 4-star WELS Scheme rated washing machine. There are a number of other ways to save water in the laundry too.

- ◆ Pretreat stains to limit the amount of rewashing.
- ◆ Try not to use your washing machine every day. Instead, sort clothes and wash bigger loads less frequently.
- ◆ When adjusting the warm water flow, always turn the hot water down rather than the cold water up.
- ◆ Use small amounts of water to handwash clothes and reuse that water on the garden.
- ◆ Divert greywater from your washing machine so you can use it immediately on the garden (but not on any edible plants).



Garden

Careful planning and good gardening habits can make a big difference to your watering needs.

- ◆ Avoid watering in the middle of the day when evaporation is high.
- ◆ Identify your soil type—this will determine the amount of water you need to use.
- ◆ Don't overwater, as waterlogged soil encourages the growth of bacteria and fungi which cause disease in plants.
- ◆ Mulch generously—it reduces water loss by up to 70 per cent, improves your soil and discourages weeds.
- ◆ Compost food scraps—compost enriches the soil by helping it absorb and hold more water.

Tip: Investigate ways of redirecting water from downpipes for use on your garden.

Pool

- ◆ A properly fitted pool blanket can stop up to 97 per cent of evaporation. Reduced evaporation also decreases the amount of chemicals required to treat the water.
- ◆ Check your pool for leaks—a tiny leak could result in a large amount of water loss.
- ◆ Build your pool in an area that is shaded during the hottest part of the day. This will reduce evaporation and help you avoid the sun's harsh rays while you swim.
- ◆ Top up your pool with rainwater run-off.

Tip: Mark the water level of your pool at the skimmer. Check the mark 24 hours later. Your pool should lose no more than 3 centimetres per day.