

Water wise tips

There are many simple things you can do around your home and garden to use water efficiently.

Do you know how much water a water efficient household should be using?

Try our water wise tips for your garden

[Choose the right plants and soil](#)

- Use compost to improve your soil. Maybe make your own!
- Water the base of your plants, not the leaves.
- Place plants with similar water needs together.
- Mulch your gardens to reduce moisture loss and weeds. Lawn clippings are a great, free mulch.
- Plant local native varieties and other water wise plants that attract wildlife and need less maintenance and watering.
- Try not to cut lawns too short. Cut only the top third off the length, leaving it three centimetres or higher.
- Water your garden in the early morning or evening to reduce water loss through evaporation.

[Look after your pool](#)

- Keep your pool covered when not in use. Without a cover, more than half the water in your pool can evaporate over a year.
- Keep the water level of your pool halfway up the skimmer. Overfilling stops the skimmer working efficiently and wastes water.

[Maintain your property](#)



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- Wash your car on the lawn and you'll water and fertilise your lawn at the same time. Car shampoos use phosphates similar to many fertilisers.
- Use a broom, rake, outdoor blower or vacuum instead of hosing paths, patios or driveways.
- Check your outdoor taps and pipes for leaks regularly. Just one dripping tap can waste up to 2,000 litres a month

Try our water wise tips for your home

Fix leaks

- Get to know your water meter. If the numbers on it are turning while no water is being used in your home, you could have a leak.
- Check for leaking **taps**. Fixing a leaking tap is an easy way to use less water. One leaking tap can waste up to 2,000 litres a month.
- Replace **washers** as soon as taps begin to leak.
- Act quickly as most leaks get worse over time. Maintenance and quick repairs are key to reducing the cost of leaks.
- Check for, and repair, any leaking **pipes**. Constant damp patches in the garden, particularly during dry periods could indicate a hidden underground leak. If you know you have a leak but can't find it, contact a plumber who specialises in concealed leak detection. Not all plumbers are equipped to find hidden leaks.

Use water efficient products

- Install water efficient taps or make your current taps water efficient by installing flow regulating aerators.
- Look for a front-loading washing machine with at least 4-and-a-half stars when you buy a new washing machine.
- Choose a dishwasher with a 5-star rating for sparkling dishes and a lower water bill.
- Install a 3-star rated showerhead and you'll save water and energy by using less hot water.

Choose water efficient behaviours



Rinse your vegies in a half filled sink rather than under a running tap.

Keep a bottle of water in the fridge so you don't have to run the tap until the water is cool.

- Thaw food in the fridge or microwave instead of under running water.
- Wait until you have a full load in your dishwasher or washing machine and use the economy mode. This can save you water and energy.
- Wash fruit and vegies in a half-filled sink instead of running water.
- Rinse your razor in the sink. Rinsing it under a running tap wastes lots of water.
- Turn the tap off while you brush your teeth. Simply wet your toothbrush before you begin and use a glass of water to rinse your mouth.



Always fix leaking taps as soon as possible.