

Water Wise at Home



Water is a key requirement for life and is a finite resource. We could do much better in our use and management of it. Consider what you are using and re-use as much of it as you can to maximise the benefit of it. Check the WELS rating (Water Efficiency Labelling Scheme) on any new water use appliances and choose the most efficient model you can. See www.waterrating.gov.au for more information on the WELS rating system.

If you're keeping to under the 155 litres per day per person that's great, but how low can you go? And, how many times can you use the same water? See if you can get at least 2 uses out of your water (that's double the value!). Here are some tips to help keep your water use to a sustainable level.

Showers

If you don't have a low flow shower head yet, change it as soon as you can. The free shower head exchange program is still running so contact your local council to find your nearest location. Alternatively you could simply put in a flow restrictor and you'll have a water efficient shower. Both are DIY jobs and cheap to do. You know the 4 minute shower rule, can you get clean in 2 minutes? This would save 20 litres per shower per day!

Where does your shower water go? There's a good water collector/pourer called a 'Joey' that easily collects the cold water while it warms up, you can then water your plants when you've finished your shower! There are also inline cold water diverters that help to reduce wastage. If you use grey water safe products then divert it to the garden. See our Grey water tip sheet for further information, available online at www.greenmoves.com.au

Taps

Water efficient tapware is readily available so check that any new tap ware is water efficient. An easy alternative to changing your taps is to install a flow restrictor or an aerator. See your local plumbing or hardware store for the right one for your taps

Toilets

These are a no-brainer – always install a water efficient dual flush model. If you have an older single flush toilet at your home, you could use a cistern weight (bottle full of water or even an old brick) to minimise water use until it gets changed over. If you can, reuse water from elsewhere in the house to flush the toilets before you use mains water. New builds often have rain water plumbed in to tanks, but you can use grey water from the laundry or bathroom as well. This would require an appropriate grey water system.

Clothes washing

Only wash when you have a full load. This reduces water and energy waste. Washing machines generally use a lot of water, consider using grey water safe products and divert the water to your garden or grey water system. When replacing the washing machine, front loader models are much more water and energy efficient than top loaders. Check both the WELS and Energy ratings before you buy.

Dishwashers

Only run the dishwasher when full. Most dishwashers are reasonably efficient but do check the WELS water rating AND the energy rating. If you can, plumb the dishwasher into your homes hot water system (rather than have it heat the water itself). It will be cheaper to run! As always, go for the most water and energy efficient model you can and use the Eco function if there is one available.

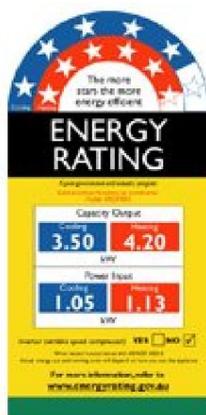
Pools & Spas

These can use lots of water (and energy). Always cover it when it's not in use, top up from a rain water tank if you can and keep the water in good condition. There is a free pool booklet on www.greenmoves.com.au/freeinfo website, download the booklet and look through it when you have time, it's full of useful information.

In the Garden

Always be aware of local watering restrictions if using mains water in the garden. If you can, reuse water from elsewhere in your home. Mulching the garden beds (to at least 10cm depth) will retain moisture for longer in summer, use appropriate drip or soaker irrigation (yes this can run off grey water and tanks), and use water saving additives in the garden beds.

If you plant drought tolerant plants, you may not need to water much at all. Choose a lawn species that is drought tolerant. Group plants with similar water use requirements together, it helps with watering!



For any queries or additional information on this tip sheet please contact Green Moves Australia on (03) 9024 5515 or 1300 898 742

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