

## Water Wise at Home

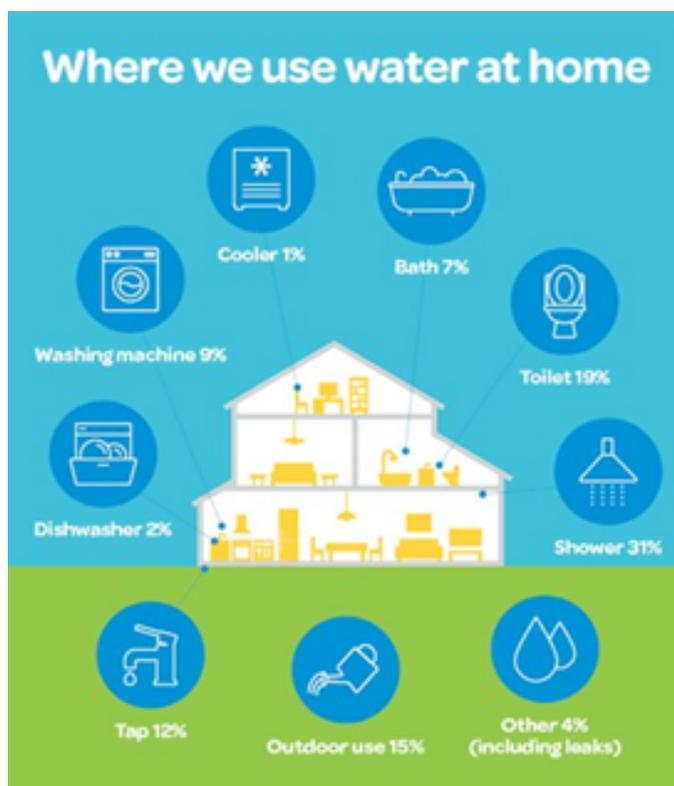


Water is a key requirement for life and is a finite resource. We could do much better in our use and management of it. Consider what you are using and re-use as much of it as you can to maximise the benefit of it. Check the WELS rating (Water Efficiency Labelling Scheme) on any new water use appliances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

The image to the right is from South East Water and it shows where, on average, most of the water in a home is used.

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 in some areas so contact your local council or water provider 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 3-minute shower rule, can you get clean in 2 minutes? This would save 20 litres per shower per day!



Ideal shower flow rates are 9L per minute or less (3 Star WELS rated or higher).

You can get Smart Showers these days like the Waterhawk (pictured) which is highly efficient, has a timer, monitors water use and temperature.

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](http://www.greenmoves.com.au)

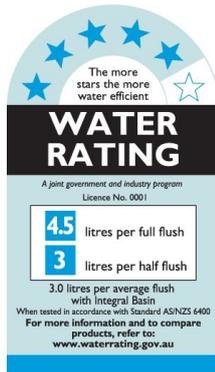
## Taps

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.



Ideal tap flow rate for kitchen and basin taps is 5L per min (5 Star WELS or higher)  
Taps for baths and laundry basins should be full flow (so you can fill it quickly).

## 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 rainwater plumbed into 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 can 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. The more stars the better.



## 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 may 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.

For any queries or additional information on this tip sheet please contact Green Moves Australia at [www.greenmoves.com.au/contact](http://www.greenmoves.com.au/contact)

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## Pools & Spas



Whilst lovely to have, pools and spas can use lots of water (and energy). Always cover it when it's not in use (to reduce evaporation), and keep the water in good condition.

There is a free pool booklet on [www.greenmoves.com.au/freeinfo](http://www.greenmoves.com.au/freeinfo) website, download the booklet and look through it when you have time, it's full of useful information on how to keep you pool running efficiently.

## 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!



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