

## → Some do's and don'ts

### Save water outdoors

- 22** Repair dripping taps. Taps dripping at the rate of one drop per second waste about 12,000 litres per year.
- 23** Don't install ornamental features such as fountains unless the water is recycled. Site water features where minimal evaporative loss occurs.
- 24** Washing a car once each fortnight with the hose running throughout the wash uses about 1000 litres per hour, that equates to around 13,000 litres each year. Limiting the use of a hose (with trigger control) to a quick spray at the beginning to soften dirt and grime, and at the end to rinse off soapy water will save about 400 litres per wash. You can save more by doing the job with a bucket and sponge and quick spray at the end. Washing your car on the lawn helps water the grass at the same time and prevents nutrients entering streams and lakes. Consider using a commercial car wash that recycles water.
- 25** If you don't have an automatic timing system installed as part of your watering system, use your oven timer as a reminder to turn the hose, sprinkler or irrigation system off.



### Save in the bathroom

- 26** Leaking toilets waste up to 16,000 litres per year. Check for leaks by adding a drop or two of food colouring to the cistern. If it is leaking, colour will appear in the toilet bowl. Dual flush toilets can save up to 5 litres of water per full flush. In an average family home that may save about 36,000 litres per year.
- 27** Showers with older type shower roses use around 20 litres per minute - about 50,000 litres per year. So, take shorter showers and install an AAA rated showerhead that uses about 9 litres per minute. Limit your shower to the time it takes to soap up, wash down and rinse off and you save thousands more litres per year.
- 28** Use the least water necessary for a bath – 1/3 full should be enough.
- 29** It's wasteful to let taps run while shaving or washing. Brush your teeth first while waiting for the water to get hot, then wash or shave after adding water to the basin. Use a glass of water if only brushing your teeth - don't let the tap run.
- 30** Verify that your home is leak-free. Read your water meter before and after a two-hour period when water isn't being used. If the meter reading doesn't remain exactly the same, there is a leak. Contact a plumber.

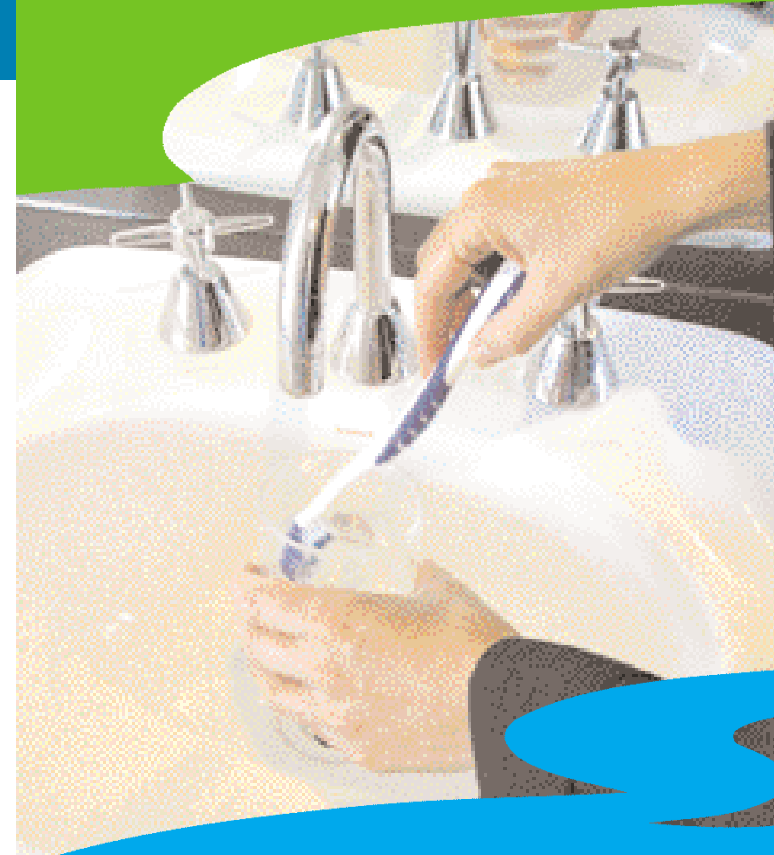
#### For further information:

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EW03

# 30 ways to save water



## Environmental conservation

Phone: (03) 5150 4444  
24 Hour Emergency: 1300 134 202





# 30 ways to save water and cut the cost of your water account



EAST GIPPSLAND WATER

## In the laundry and kitchen

- 1** Automatic dishwashers may use around 40 litres of water each wash. Check the manufacturer's instructions for your model. Don't rinse dishes in the sink before loading the dishwasher. If fitted, use the 'rinse and hold' setting instead. Only wash with a full load.
- 2** Washing machines may use 120 litres or more of water each load. Adjust water levels to suit loads, but better still, only wash full loads. When buying a new machine, choose a water efficient model.
- 3** Running a tap to rinse fruit and vegetables uses around 20 litres of water each minute. It is more efficient to wash quantities of fruit and vegies in a kitchen sink half filled with water.
- 4** Store drinking water in the refrigerator rather than letting the tap run every time you want a glass of cool water.
- 5** Using running water to thaw meat or other frozen goods is wasteful. Defrost food overnight in the refrigerator or by using the defrost setting on microwaves.

## Lawns and your garden

- 6** Lawns soak up more water per square metre than other garden areas. Plant native or drought-tolerant grasses that don't need frequent watering.
- 7** Raise you lawn mower's cutting height. Higher cut lawns encourage roots to grow deeper, they shade root systems and hold soil moisture better than closely clipped grass.

- 8** Forget about your sprinkler and you could waste more than 1000 litres of water per hour. In summer, lawns generally don't need watering more than once a week. 10mm is enough to provide gardens with a good soaking. If using a sprinkler, place an ice-cream container under the spray until the water in it becomes 10mm deep, then turn off the water. The most effective sprinklers produce large drops – better than a fine mist because wind drift could waste much of the water.
- 9** Fertilisers increase the need for water. Apply fertilisers containing slow-release, water-soluble forms of nitrogen.

## Automatic systems

- 10** Properly designed and installed watering systems put water where it is wanted and combined with automatic timer systems minimise the potential to waste water.
- 11** You might even consider installing an automatic rain sensor device or a switch to override the irrigation cycle if adequate rainfall occurs.
- 12** Regularly check drip irrigation, automatic sprinkler systems and timers to ensure they operate properly.
- 13** Micro sprays can be ideal for ferns and annuals – they provide water at a rate more efficiently absorbed by plants and the soil and thus minimise wasteful run-off.
- 14** Whatever method of watering you choose, remember that watering during the heat of the day is wasteful because much of the water will evaporate before reaching the roots of plants. Watering leaves at this time may even damage them. Watering in the cool of the morning or late evening is best.

## Sensible landscaping

- 15** Clever landscaping can save as much as 50% of the water used in your garden.
- 16** Mulching can save 70% of water otherwise lost by evaporation. As well as retaining moisture in soil, mulching helps to control weeds that compete with plants for water.
- 17** Windbreaks reduce wind's drying effect.
- 18** It's best to group plants with similar watering needs.
- 19** Keep lawns to a minimum.

## Simply commonsense

- 20** Hosing down your driveway or footpath can waste 1000 litres per hour. Use a broom instead and add the sweepings to your compost.
- 21** Make sure hoses have trigger or shut-off nozzles but when you've finished using them, turn off at the tap. A burst hose can waste 1000's of litres of water.



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