



**Smart
Approved
WaterMark**

Advice

SAVING WATER AT HOME

We use a large amount of water inside the home for washing ourselves, our clothes, brushing our teeth, flushing toilets and cooking. This factsheet helps you reduce your water use in your home by making some small changes.

BATHROOM

- ◆ Shorter showers save water and energy. Limit time spent in the shower to soap up, wash down, and rinse off.
- ◆ Use a shower timer. Choose from a manual 4-minute egg timer or an electronic timer.
- ◆ Avoid rinsing your razor under a running tap, instead fill the basin with a little warm water.
- ◆ Shave your legs before taking a shower, then use the shower water to rinse off.
- ◆ Adding cold water to cool very hot water is a waste. So, make sure your hot water system thermostat is not set too high - ideally no higher than 68°F or 20°C.

TOILETS

- ◆ Buy a dual flush toilet with a four-star water efficiency rating. These toilets use just 4.5 litres for a full flush and 3 litres for a half flush.
- ◆ Old toilets use around 18 litres per flush, so put a water filled plastic bottle or a brick into your cistern to reduce the water used.

TAPS

- 💧 A running tap uses about 16 litres of water per minute so turn off the tap when brushing your teeth and wet your brush and use a glass for rinsing.
- 💧 A dripping tap can waste up to 20,000 litres a year. So if your tap is dripping get it fixed.

KITCHEN

- 💧 Don't rinse dishes under a running tap. If you have two sinks, fill the second one with rinsing water. If you have only one sink, stack washed dishes in a dish rack and rinse them with a pan of hot water.
- 💧 When boiling vegetables, use enough water to cover them and keep the lid on the saucepan. Your vegetables will boil quicker and maintain precious vitamins in the food.
- 💧 Garbage-disposal units use about 6 litres of water per day. Put suitable food scraps into a composter or worm farm rather than down the kitchen sink.
- 💧 The dishwasher is the highest consumer of water in the kitchen. Install a water efficient model and save water and money.
- 💧 Only run your dishwasher when it's full.

PETS

- 💧 When bathing your pets, run a shallower bath than you would for yourself.
- 💧 When cleaning the fish tank, use the 'old' nitrogen, phosphorous-rich water on your plants.



Watch the 'How to' video guides on our Smart WaterMark YouTube channel

For more Smart Water Advice go to www.smartwatermark.org/NSW

