

Water efficiency

Today's households have the opportunity to use less water because of new ideas, products and technologies.

Conserving water

Water is a limited resource and we should use it wisely. If you use water sparingly, you'll cut down the amount of electricity used to supply water to your home, reduce the demand on the mains water supply and save money.

Aerators/flow restrictors on taps

Aerators restrict the flow of water from your tap without reducing water pressure. They can reduce the amount of water you use by more than 50%.

You should use a 5 litre per minute restrictor for hand basins and a 7.6 litre per minute restrictor for kitchen and laundry basins.

Tips

- use AAAA appliances such as AAAAA washing machines
- fit AAAAA rated showerheads – you'll save up to 1000kg of greenhouse gas per year and save up to \$90 per year in energy and water costs
- fix leaking taps
- install water-saving fittings to taps, toilets and showers
- replace your toilet cistern with a dual flush 6 litre/3 litre cistern

Outdoor water use

Up to 60% of household water is used outdoors. Using water conservation techniques in the garden will save you money, time and effort.

Tips

- minimise lawn areas – in most gardens, lawns consume up to 90% of outdoor water and most of the energy used outdoors. Where possible, replace lawn with groundcover plants or mulched garden beds
- use mulching around plants – this conserves water by preventing evaporation and reducing water run-off
- plant drought tolerant species
- improve soil – adding organic matter, gypsum, sand and other compounds can improve soil condition, water retention and drainage. Hardy, deep-rooted plants can help break up poor soils

Water efficiency labelling scheme

The National Water Conservation Rating and Labelling Scheme helps you to identify water efficient products. Water-using products are rated from A to AAAAA. The more 'A's a product has, the more water efficient it is.