

# WATER

*Water is a precious resource, so why waste it. Here are some tips on how to be waterwise this summer.*

## TOILET



### Leaks

Check for leaks. A leaking toilet may not be seen or heard, but it can waste more than 16,000 litres in a year.

To check if your toilet leaks, put some food colouring in the cistern and wait awhile. If the food colouring appears in the toilet bowl without flushing there is a leak.

You can save up to 2.5 million litres of water a year by fixing your leaky toilet.



### Dual- Flush Toilet

A dual-flush toilet uses two different buttons or handles to flush different levels of water through the cistern.

If possible, install or convert your existing cistern to a dual-flush system.

This allows you to use only half the water when needed.

## BATHROOM



### Showers

Take shorter showers. Showers use 10-20 litres of water every minute.

If you want to soak, a partially full bath uses less water than a long shower.



### Shower Heads

Many shower heads put out 20 litres per minute, when 10 litres per minute is more than adequate.

Hardware or plumbing shops stock devices that restrict the flow of water.

## KITCHEN & LAUNDRY



### WASHING

Wash full loads. Ensure you have a full load of washing. If you don't have a full load, adjust the water level to suit the size of your wash load.

When buying a new machine, choose one that is water efficient.

Front loaders use about half the water that top loaders use.



### TAPS

Turn off the tap. Try not to keep the tap running when brushing your teeth or washing vegetables.

Turn off all taps securely - a slow drip from a tap can waste more than 30 litres per day.

Tap aerators can reduce water flow by up to 50%.

# HOSING



## Playing with a Hose

Hoses are not play things. Children squirting each other with the hose wastes around 1,000 litres of water per hour. Try filling up a paddling pool or using a water activity table instead.



## Sprinklers and Hoses

A forgotten sprinkler can use over 100 litres of water per hour. A timer will allow you to place as much water as required without wastage.

Use a trigger hose to avoid wasting water as you walk around the garden.

# EVAPORATION



## Garden Mulch

Use a good mulch in your garden. Mulches can prevent up to 70% of evaporation loss and they are one of the cheapest and easiest ways to make the most of water in the garden.



## Reduce Evaporation

You can reduce evaporation by watering in the evening or at night.

# PLANTS



## Water the Roots

When watering your plants water the roots and not the leaves. Contrary to popular belief watering the leaves of trees is not beneficial. It just increases water loss through evaporation.



## Weeds

Remove weeds because they compete for water. Once they are removed, a good mulch will help stop other weeds taking root.

# WATERING THE GARDEN



## Garden

Don't water the path. Make sure to arrange your sprinklers to water the garden and not the concrete.



## Soak Don't Spray

Giving your garden a quick spray every night just makes plants shallow rooted and dependent on the water you supply.

Most of that water is evaporated before it gets to the roots anyway. Instead, water your plants thoroughly every fourth day.

It makes plants hardier by encouraging roots to grow deeper into the soil to seek out water.