F A C T S H E E T

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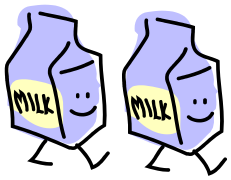
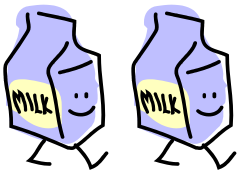
BEING WATERWISE INDOORS



Imagine 900 one-litre milk cartons filled with water sitting on your doorstep each morning!. Astonishingly, that's how much water is used every day by the average Australian household.



SAVE WATER, SAVE MONEY, SAVE THE ENVIRONMENT

Reducing your demand for water will eliminate or defer the need for new dams and supply systems, reduce operating costs for treating and distributing water and contain your household water charges.

Inside the house alone, we each use an average of 160 litres of water daily. But research shows that we require much less than this for our needs. We can reduce community demand for this precious resource if we all use water more carefully.

How can we avoid wasting water without affecting our lifestyle? It's easy - read on and just follow the simple tips in this fact sheet.

HOW MUCH WATER DO WE USE INDOORS?

An average tap flows at a rate of up to 20 litres per minute, depending on how far it's turned on. Apply this to how we use water in different rooms in the house (see below) and the figures are surprising.

SAVEWATER! INDOORS

In the bathroom:

Brushing teeth	***5 litres***
Washing hands	***5 litres***
Flushing toilet	***12 litres***
Shower (10 minutes)	***200 litres***
Bath	***100 litres***

We use more water in our bathrooms than in any other part of the house. It's a great place to start when looking for ways to save water, money and the environment.

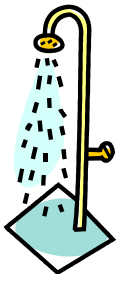
- Install a dual flush toilet. Traditional toilets can usually be converted to dual flush.

  Single flush cisterns have a capacity of between 9 and 12 litres. Dual flush cisterns are mostly 3 and 6 litres flush.

  If each person in the house flushes five times per day:

  Single – 5 @ 10 litres = 50 litres
  Dual – 1 @ 6 litres)
  4 @ 3 litres) = 18 litres
  daily saving 32 litres per person

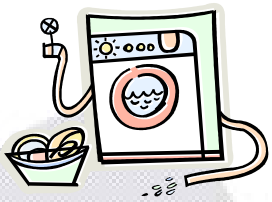
- Remember, the average household spends $300 a year on baths and showers, including water and heating costs. Take shorter showers. Limit showers to the time it takes to soap up, wash down, and rinse off.
- Install a water-saving shower rose or flow restrictor. Many showers put out 20 litres of water per minute, however, 10 litres is enough for a refreshing, cleansing shower. Install a shower with an efficiency star rating of three stars or more, save around $50-$100 in water and energy costs every year.



- There is no need to run water down the plughole while brushing your teeth. Wet your brush and fill a glass for rinsing.
- Don't rinse your razor under a running tap. Fill the sink with a little warm water for rinsing.

In the Laundry

Washing machine150 litres



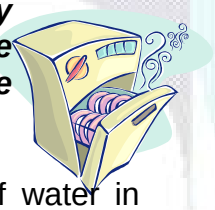
15-20% of all water consumed in the home is used in the laundry, making this room a high consumer of not only water but also energy and detergents. So, fill up before you wash!.

- Look for washing machines that have a four or more star rating (WELS label).
- Consider buying a water efficient front loading washing machine.
- Check the water efficiency performance of any product before buying.
- Adjust the water level to suit the size of the wash load - some new water efficient models will do this automatically.
- Wash with a full load and you will save 10 litres of water each wash.
- Use the sud-saver option - if your machine has one - when you have several loads to wash.

In the Kitchen

Drinking,cooking,cleaning/person 10L/day

Dishwashing by hand	***20 ltrs/day***
Dishwasher	***50 ltrs/use***
Garbage disposal unit	***10 ltrs/use***



The kitchen is a major consumer of water in the household, using around 10% of total consumption

- When washing dishes by hand, don't rinse them under a running tap. If you have two sinks, fill the second one with rinsing water. If you have only one sink, stack the washed dishes in a dish rack and rinse them with a pan of water.
- Wait till you have a full load before using your dishwasher. Another load, another dollar!.
- Keep a bottle of drinking water in the refrigerator. This avoids wasting water while waiting for the water to cool down, and also gets rid of any chlorine taste.
- Install aerating taps. These are inexpensive and can reduce water flow by 50%.
- Garbage-disposal units use about 10 litres of water per use and send a lot of extra rubbish into sewers. This places an additional load on sewerage treatment works and impacts on our rivers and beaches. Put your organic food scraps in the compost bin for a better garden.
- When buying a new appliance that uses water, be sure it has a high water conservation rating.

INSTALL TAP AERATORS OR FLOW CONTROL VALVES

A tap aerator can save you about half the amount of water you would use with a standard tap.

A flow control valve can reduce the flow of water through a tap to a more manageable level.

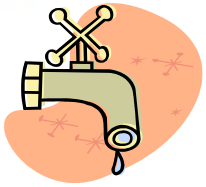
Install water control devices:

- for the laundry and bathroom taps (12 litres per minute recommended)
- for the kitchen taps (9 litres per minute recommended)
- for hand basin taps (6 litres per minute recommended)

SAVE HOT WATER

- Make sure your hot water system thermostat is not set too high. Adding cold water to cool too-hot water is wasteful.
- If you have a spa, ensure it is well insulated to keep water warm for longer.
- Insulating hot water pipes saves energy and avoids wasting water while waiting for hot water to flow through.

CHECK FOR LEAKS



- Use your water meter to check for leaks. Turn all taps off before you go to bed one night and take a meter reading. Check the meter next morning before any water is used. If the meter reading has advanced, and no-one used any water during the night, you have a leaking pipe, tap or toilet cistern. Locate the problem and repair it.

- A continuously dripping tap can waste up to 900 litres of water per day. Turn taps off properly and check washers for wear.
- A continuously running toilet can waste more than 200 kilolitres of water per year. To check for leaks, put a little food colouring in the tank. If, without flushing, the colouring begins to appear in the bowl, the cistern should be repaired immediately.

RENOVATING

When renovating select products with a high water-efficient star rating.
The National Water Efficiency Labelling and Standards Scheme rates the efficiency of products on a scale of zero to six stars. The more stars the more efficient the appliance so "reach for the stars".

SMART APPROVED WATERMARK

Smart Approved WaterMark is a voluntary, not-for-profit program that helps you to make an informed choice about saving water around your home, garden and pool. Products and services with the Smart Approved WaterMark label have been assessed by an independent technical expert panel. So, look out for the Smart Approved WaterMark label when you're shopping to be sure that what you're buying really will save you water.

SAVEWATER!® ALLIANCE

The Savewater! ® Alliance works with member water businesses, government agencies, and product and technology providers to invest in delivering a range of outcomes across three focus areas:

1. water conservation and efficiency
2. valuing water products and initiatives, and
3. product and technology solutions

SUMMARY

There is no need for you to stop your essential uses of water because your savings would be small in comparison with the benefits you would lose. All you need to do is look at areas where you might be wasting water and use the tips in this sheet to help you use water efficiently.

By using water wisely, you will:

- Reduce the need for new dams and supply systems
- Keep your water bills down
- Make large savings on your energy bills for water heating
- Reduce the risk of water restrictions
- Reduce your impact on the environment