

# FACT SHEET



## F 24

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## WATER TIPS

### Evaporative Coolers



Evaporative coolers are a popular form of cooling in the Riverina. Where installed it is important that they are maintained according to the manufacturer's instruction manual.

The coolers should be cleaned and pads cleaned and replaced as required to maintain efficient cooling. Evaporative coolers require water to be bled off to waste so that excessive amounts of salts do not accumulate in the cooler. If the bleed off water is not set properly, the excessive concentration of salts cause unsightly build up on the cooler and reduces efficiency. Consult the cooler's instruction manual for further details.

### Use Water Wisely !



Use a bucket and sponge to wash the car, and if possible wash it on the lawn. Use the hose only for rinsing and turn it off between rinses. The water and detergent are beneficial to the garden. Avoid

washing the car in direct sunlight and dry it off with a chamois to avoid unsightly watermarks.

With the sudden onset of very hot weather everyone should be particularly careful that they are drinking enough fluids. The Department of Health advise that we should be drinking at least 6 - 8 cups of water per day. Water is the best drink to avoid de-hydration.

Does your Garden hose run longer than needed because someone forgets to turn it off?. A timer on your garden tap can prevent this and save you water and money. It also makes it easier for someone to water your garden when you are on holidays.

### Saving water outside your home

- Fit tap timers to all your garden water taps. Tap timers automatically turn off your drippers even if you forget!
- When washing your car, try using your tap timers to control the flow time.
- Don't mow your lawn too short? A longer lush lawn develops a deeper root system and requires less water to look great.
- Talk to your nursery about water friendly plants. There are thousands of waterwise plants to choose from, that look great even in tough dry conditions.
- Mulching not only helps to control weeds, it also prevents soil drying out! Compost, sawdust, straw, grass clippings, pebbles and woodchips are all excellent mulching solutions.
- When planting your garden try grouping your plants into high or low water users.
- Did you know small shrubs require more frequent watering than larger hard leaf varieties?

### Saving water inside your home

- Toilets can be checked for unseen leaks by adding a few drops of food dye in the cistern. If the colour is detected in the bowl, there is a leak which needs to be fixed.
- Install dual-flush cisterns on toilets
- Keep showers to approx 4 minutes by using a timer
- Install a water saving showerhead (3 star rating)
- Wipe off cookware, plates etc. before putting in dishwasher so a lighter wash can be done.
- Only run the dishwasher when there is a full load.
- Save rinse water from the washing machine for plants
- Run the washing machine with full loads and if replacing the machine, purchase a higher star rating model.
- Ensure taps are turned off properly to stop drips
- Repair/replace parts of taps are leaking
- Collect cold water while waiting for the hot, to put on plants.
- To check for any hidden leaks, turn ALL taps off on the property. If the water meter is still running there is a leak, which may need the services of a plumber.