



Priority actions for water...

Everyday things you can do

- Comply with your local water restrictions.
- Update your water fittings. Install water-saving devices like AAA-rated showerheads, dual flush toilets, tap aerators and flow controllers. A water-efficient showerhead can save around 10 litres of water a minute.
- Think about ongoing water consumption when you're buying new appliances or equipment - water-efficient dishwashers use half the water of average models. Look for the highest A-rating or star rating for dishwashers, washing machines, toilets, taps and showerheads.
- Check that pipes and taps are in good order. Promptly fix or report any leaks or drips – a leaking tap can waste 200 litres of water a day.
- Insulate hot water pipes, and, if you're installing a new system, minimise the distance between the hot water unit and the taps so you don't waste water while waiting for it to run hot.
- Turn the tap off when you clean your teeth!
- Operate the washing machine or dishwasher only when you have a full load.
- Wash fruit and vegetables and rinse dishes in a plugged sink or bowl instead of running under water.
- Reuse water from your bath, shower and laundry to water your garden. Find out about installing a grey water system.
- Only water the garden when it really needs it. Minimise evaporation by using mulch and watering in the early mornings when there is no direct sunlight. Choose native plants and grasses that require less water than exotic species. Group plants with similar watering needs together.
- Plant trees and windbreaks to give shade and reduce evaporation. Reduce lawn areas – or select varieties that require less water. Replace lawns with porous paving, pebbles or drought-tolerant ground covers.
- Wash cars, outdoor furniture or pets on the grass only on non-restricted watering days, and use a bucket rather than the hose. Don't let wash water enter the storm water system – remember the drain is just for rain.
- Find out how you can capture and store your rain water, and filter it too if necessary. Investigate installation of rainwater tanks, grey water tanks and storm water collection devices.
- Use a broom to sweep and clean outdoor surfaces rather than the hose.

How can I find out more?

Visit www.livingthing.net.au

