

Saving water at home

water efficiency tips

TARGET
155

Target 155 is a voluntary water conservation program to encourage people to limit their water use to 155 litres per person per day. Here's some simple tips to help you reach T155.

Save in the shower...

We use more water in our bathrooms than any other part of the house. About 30% of household water is used in showers and baths.

A waterproof timer will help you keep your shower time short. Aim for a four-minute shower, once a day. If you want a long soak, have a bath instead.

Catch the cold water from the shower in a bucket while the water heats up. Then use the water on your garden or to flush your toilet. Turning the shower off while soaping or shampooing is another great water saver.

An efficient showerhead can save 11 litres of water per minute compared to



an old model. That's at least 16,000 litres per person per year!

A water efficient showerhead can also contribute to lower energy bills and reduce your greenhouse gas emissions.

...and in the loo

Around 14% of household water is flushed down the toilet. An old-style single-flush toilet can use up to 12 litres of water in one flush, three times as much as an efficient dual-flush toilet.

If you can't afford to replace your single-flush toilet, a simple, low cost way to save water is to fit a cistern weight. These weights can be purchased at your local hardware store.

To check if your toilet is leaking, put a few drops of food colouring in the toilet's tank. If the colour appears in the bowl without flushing, you have a leak in your toilet. A leaking toilet can waste thousands of litres of water a year.



AIM FOR THE STARS

When buying a new appliance, always check the water efficiency label.

The Water Efficiency Labelling and Standards scheme (WELS) rates appliances for water efficiency. The more stars the better!

To find out more about WELS ratings, go to www.waterrating.gov.au

Be waterwise

Simple changes can save thousands of litres of water per year, without affecting your lifestyle.

- Turn off the tap while you brush your teeth and save up to five litres of water each time.
- Put a plug in the sink when rinsing vegetables or dishes, shaving, or washing your hands or face, as opposed to running the tap.
- Wait for a full load before using your dishwasher.
- Consider reusing clothes before washing them. Wait until you have a full load or set your washing machine to fill to a low water level.

- Use a bucket to wash your car on the lawn, to save water while watering the lawn.

Tap aerators are another simple water-saving option. Fitting aerators reduces the amount of water used from taps by around 50%.

Alternatively, by installing control valves or restrictors you can reduce the flow of water through a tap by up to 15 litres per minute.

By becoming waterwise, you'll be helping to ensure that we all have enough water for the future.

To find out more about Target 155 and how you can save water, go to:

www.target155.vic.gov.au



A simple way to check for leaks

A leaking tap can waste as much as 7,000 litres each year. By detecting water leaks early and having a licensed plumber undertake repairs, you'll save water and money.

Leaks can sometimes be difficult to detect. You can easily test for leaks by reading your water meter. Record all of the numbers on your meter and then use no water for some time - overnight for example.

When the time has elapsed, take a second meter reading. If any of the numbers have changed, this could indicate that you have a leaking appliance or fitting. This can include:

- Taps, toilets cisterns or other fittings
- Pipes underground or under the house
- Solar water heaters or evaporative coolers