

Water Efficiency

Whether used wisely or wasted, each and every drop of water used is paid for by consumers. By being WaterWise in the home, you can help save money on water and electricity bills, sewerage costs, and assist in protecting the environment.

Know your current water use:

- Know how much water you are using and what it costs. Check the water meter's black numbers at the same time each day and note the numbers on a chart. At the end of the week multiply your total weekly figure by 52 and you will get an estimate of your annual usage in kilolitres or visit our web site: ipswichwater.com.au to access our water meter calculator.

Water Efficiency

Take Waterwise action inside the home:

In the bathroom

- Don't let the tap run while brushing your teeth.
- Replace the showerhead with a water efficient showerhead (AAA water efficient rated) which is just as effective as a traditional showerhead. Thousands of litres of water can be saved per year. It will also save on electricity used to heat the water. The savings on the water bills can pay back the investment within three months (assuming three to five minute showers per day)
- Install a dual-flush toilet mechanism. It flushes 4 litres for liquids and 9 litres for solids. This can save a family of five at least 50,000 litres of water per year.
- Check and fix leaking toilets. Check toilets for silent leaks by putting some food dye into the cistern. If the water in the toilet bowl turns into the colour of the food dye, then the cistern is leaking and the valve must be repaired.
- Avoid using the toilet as a wastepaper basket and flushing away tissues as this wastes water

In the kitchen

- Fix a dripping tap at a cost of less than one dollar for a new "washer" if you do it yourself, or at an average cost of between \$55 to \$80 if a plumber is called.
- Convert to AAA water efficient rated appliances such as washing machines and dishwashers that use less water.
- Run the washing machine and dishwasher only when fully loaded.
- Insulate hot water pipes and hot water systems - this will retain the heat longer, so that you don't lose too much cold water that runs off while you are waiting for the water to get hot.
- Wash fruit and vegetables in a small amount of water in the sink not under a running tap.

Take Waterwise action outside in the garden:

- Group plants with similar water requirements in the same beds.
- Water wisely – watering deeply but less often at the right time (early morning or in the evening, not during the hottest part of the day).
- Improve the soil and it will nourish the plants.
- Choose local native and drought-resistant plants.
- Cover up the pool when not used to prevent water loss through evaporation.
- Create shade areas to cool the garden and reduce water loss.
- Use a hardy backbone of shrubs to create a sustainable effect, such as a windbreak that protects smaller plants and provides shelter for outdoor living areas.
- Contour the lawn so that water is channeled to flow into your flowerbeds.
- Group annuals together in strategic focal areas for effective watering as well as a more attractive garden.
- Use mulch made from bark, leaves, grass clippings or a ground cover on the soil surface as mulch to reduce water run-off and evaporation.
- Avoid wasting water by not allowing automatic irrigation systems to switch on before, during or after rain when the soil is still moist.
- Adjust sprinklers so that they do not spray over paths.
- Collect rainwater from the roof to redirect to thirsty plants, vegetable patch and lawn.
- Wash the car on the grass not in the driveway (where the water will run into the stormwater).
- Sweep or blow off the driveway and paths, don't hose them off.

WATER & THE HOME

Place	Water Wasting Family	Waterwise Family
Bath	2 baths at a depth of 30cm (360litres)	1 bath at a depth of 20cm (120 litres)
Shower	2 showers at 24 litres/min. for 7 minutes each (336 litres)	3 showers using low flow showerhead, at 10 litres/min for 4 minutes each (close tap while soaping) (120 litres)
Wash basin	Water used freely (30 litres)	Water used sparingly (20 litres)
Toilet	20 uses at 12 litres/flush (240 litres)	Using a 6 litre/3 litre dual flush toilet, 15 uses at 3 litres and 5 uses at 6 litres (75 litres)
Washing machine	5 uses per week (150 litres per load)	5 uses per week (90 litres per load)
Handwashing	Clothes, floor, windows and other (20 litres)	Water used sparingly (15 litres)
Cooking and drinking	15 litres	15 litres
Dishwashing	Sink filled with water each time (40 litres)	Water used sparingly (20 litres)
Total water used	1791 litres per household 448 litres per person daily	835 litres per household 209 litres per person daily

Saving 53%