

Appendix XX – A sample of water saving tips available to customers

Kitchen

The kitchen is a major consumer of water in the home, using around 10% of total household water consumption for cooking, cleaning, washing, or drinking.

Sink

- Garbage-disposal units use about 6 litres of water per day. Use a sink strainer instead and put suitable food scraps into a composter or worm farm rather than down the kitchen sink. Using a sink strainer helps reduce the amount of waste that gets into our sewerage systems, helping us treat your wastewater more efficiently.
- 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 washed dishes in a dish rack and rinse them with a pan of hot water.

Fridge

- To avoid wasting drinking water from a running tap, collect it in a bottle or jug and store it in the fridge until it is cool enough to drink.

Dishwasher

- Look for dishwashers that have a National Water Conservation or WELS Label. The best water rating achieved by dishwashers is 5 stars.
- Only use the dishwasher when you have a full load.
- Use the rinse-hold setting on the dishwasher, if it has one, rather than rinsing dishes under the tap.

Tap

- A dripping tap can waste 20,000L of water a year.
- Catch running water whilst waiting for it to warm up. Use it to water plants, rinse dishes, or wash fruit and vegetables

Stove

- When boiling vegetables, use enough water to cover them and keep the lid on the saucepan. Your vegetables will boil quicker and it will save you water, power, and preserve precious vitamins in the food.

Pipes

- Insulate hot water pipes. This avoids wasting water while waiting for hot water to flow through and saves energy.

Hot water system

- Make sure your hot water system thermostat is not set too high. Adding cold water to cool very hot water is wasteful.

Oil bottle on bench

Do not dispose of fats, oil and food scraps down the sink. These can cause blockages in the pipes and sewers and they make the sewage treatment process more difficult. Food scraps and small amounts of cooking oil are fine for your compost.

Laundry

Up to 20% of all water provided to the home is used in the laundry, making this room a high consumer of not only water but also energy and detergents.

Washing machine

- Look for washing machines that have a four or more star rating (WELS label).
- Consider buying a water efficient front loading washing machine.
- Wash with a full load and you will save 10 litres of water each wash.

Taps

- Install flow controllers and aerators in all taps and plumbing fixtures – they're an inexpensive way to save water and can be installed by any handy person or your local plumber.

Plastic tub

- If you only have a small amount of washing and you don't have a water efficient machine, doing it by hand will save water. Washing machines use between 40 and 200 litres of water per load, so hand washing may be a better alternative than running the machine only half full.

Bathroom

Nearly half of all water consumed in the home is used in the bathroom. About 20% of that water is flushed down the toilet!

Toilet

- Installing a dual flush toilet will dramatically reduce the amount of water you use especially if you have an older single flush system
- Leaking toilets can waste up to **100 litres** per day – that's 16,000 litres a year! To check if your toilet cistern is leaking, add some food dye and see if any of it appears in the bowl within 15 minutes.

Shower

- A water efficient showerhead can save more than just water – it can also save you money on bills, reduce your energy consumption and resulting greenhouse gas emissions
- A water efficient showerhead can save up to 50 litres of water for each shower – that's up to 20,000 litres of water per person per year.
- You can test your shower to see how efficient it is. Put a bucket under the showerhead or tap and turn on both the taps to full flow for ten seconds. Measure the amount of water captured and multiply this amount by six to calculate the flow rate per minute. If the flow rate is greater than 9 litres it is worth considering upgrading your showerhead or tapware.
- Use a shower timer. Choose from a manual 4-minute egg timer or a more sophisticated electronic timer that either attaches to the shower wall or showerhead, or is wired into the wall during construction
-

Bath

- Only fill the tub with as much water as needed. Check the temperature as you fill. Adding extra cold water is wasteful.

Baby Bath

- Use a baby bath if possible for babies and toddlers, rather than filling the regular bath.

Basin

- Regularly check your plug for leaks and replace if necessary.
- Don't leave taps running when shaving, handwashing or brushing your teeth. Instead of running the tap while brushing your teeth, use a glass filled with water to rinse the brush.

Lounge Room

Fish tank

- When you clean your fish tank, use the 'old' water on your plants – it's full of nitrogen and phosphorous-rich.

Outside / Garden

Many Australian gardeners tend to water far more than necessary, because we don't know what our plants really need. There are lots of easy and effective ways to reduce the use of precious drinking water on our gardens. You can visit www.savewater.com.au to plan your garden and see how water efficient plants and products can help.

Watering

- Install a drip reticulation system that can go on a timer to water your garden, as well as saving water, this waters the plants from the roots where they take up the water rather than from overhead.
- When hand-watering, a trigger nozzle on your hose is most efficient.
- Watering cans and buckets are a very efficient way of watering. You can concentrate on the roots of the plant.

Plants

- Consult your local nursery about native plants suited to our Tasmanian climate or visit www.savewater.com.au for a handy plant selector to help you plan a more sustainable garden.

Trees and Shade

- Plant trees and shrubs to create natural shade and reduce evaporation.

Mulch

- Use mulch in your garden. It can reduce evaporation from soils by up to 75% and help prevent soil erosion.

Taps

- Leaking taps can usually be fixed with a new washer, this is easy to do. Just remember to turn the water off at the mains before you start.