



## BE WATER WISE INDOORS

How can we avoid wasting water without greatly affecting our lifestyle? Follow these simple tips.

**THE AVERAGE HOUSEHOLD USES 339,000 LITRES OF WATER (EQUIVALENT TO SIX BACKYARD SWIMMING POOLS) EVERY YEAR. APPROXIMATELY 60% OF THIS IS USED INSIDE THE HOUSE, BUT RESEARCH SHOWS THAT WE REQUIRE MUCH LESS THAN THIS FOR OUR NEEDS.**

### In the bathroom

- Install a dual flush toilet. Modern toilets give the option to flush either half or all the cistern's water.
- Remember, the average household spends up to \$150 a year on baths and showers, including water and heating costs. Take shorter showers. Limit showers to the time it takes to soap up, wash down, and rinse off.
- Install a water-saving shower rose or flow restrictor. Many showers put out 20 litres of water per minute, however, 10 litres is enough for a refreshing, cleansing shower.
- There is no need to run water down the plughole while brushing your teeth. Wet your brush and fill a glass for rinsing.
- Don't rinse your razor under a running tap. Fill the sink with a little water for rinsing. We can reduce community demand for this precious resource if we all use water more carefully and wisely.

### In the laundry

Each washing machine or dishwasher load costs you nearly \$1.00 in water, energy, detergent and machine wear costs. So fill up before you wash.

### In the kitchen

- 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.
- Wait until you have a full load before using your dishwasher.
- Keep a bottle of drinking water in the refrigerator. This avoids wasting water while waiting for the water to cool down, and also gets rid of any chlorine taste.
- Install aerating taps. These are inexpensive and can reduce water flow by 50%.
- When buying a new appliance that uses water, be sure it has a high water conservation rating.

### SAVE WATER, SAVE MONEY, SAVE THE ENVIRONMENT

Reducing your demand for water will eliminate or defer the need for new reservoirs and supply systems, reduce operating costs for treating and distributing water and reduce your household water charges

The aim of Water Wise is to help you achieve a balance between what you pay in water bills and the benefits you obtain from the water supply.

### Check For Leaks

- Use your water meter to check for leaks. Turn all taps off before you go to bed one night and take a meter reading. Check the meter next morning before any water is used. If the meter reading has advanced, and no-one used any water during the night, you have a leaking pipe, tap or toilet cistern. Locate the problem and repair it.
- A continuously dripping tap can waste 600 litres of water per day. Turn taps off properly and check washers for wear.
- A continuously running toilet can waste more than 200 kilolitres of water per year. To check for leaks, put a little food colouring in the tank. If, without flushing, the colouring begins to appear in the bowl, the cistern should be repaired immediately.

### HOW MUCH WATER DO WE USE INDOORS?

An average tap flows at a rate of up to 20 litres per minute, depending on how far it's turned on. Apply this to how we use water in different rooms in the house (see below) and the figures are surprising.

- Drinking, cooking & cleaning per person 10 litres/day
- Dishwashing by hand 20 litres/day
- Dishwasher 40 litres vs 18 litres (using 5 star rated machine)
- Brushing teeth 5 litres
- Washing hands 5 litres
- Flushing toilet (single/dual) 12 litres vs 6 litres
- Shower (10 minutes) 200 litres vs 100 litres
- Bath 100 litres
- Washing Machine 100 litres vs 40 litres (using 5 star rated machine)