



The Water Corporation has lots of ways you can save water, starting with the tips inside this brochure. There are also people you can talk to and places you can go to get waterwise advice. Simply look for the Waterwise logo, visit www.watercorporation.com.au or call the Waterwise Infoline on 13 10 39.

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This information is available in alternative formats.

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**It's easy to Save 6
every day, inside and
outside the home.**



How waterwise is your household? Take this simple test to find out.

- Do you take short showers?
- Do you run your dishwasher with full loads?
- Do you mulch your garden?
- Do you regularly check your reticulation system?
- Do you know if your toilet is leaking?
- Do you use a glass of water when you brush your teeth?
- Is your lawn drought tolerant?
- Do you have a rain sensor in your garden?
- Do you catch the warm up water in the shower?
- Do you rinse your dishes in a container?
- Do you turn your sprinklers off during winter?

If you answered 'No' to any of the above questions, this booklet can help you become more waterwise.

There are many ways we can save water in and around the house and garden. Simple things like taking shorter showers, using waterwise appliances and checking to ensure our reticulation systems are working properly can save lots of water and don't take a lot of effort.

This booklet is an easy to read, all-in-one Waterwise Ways Guide for the whole family to use. It tells you how much water different activities use and provides simple, yet effective, ideas to make our habits, our homes and our gardens just that little bit more water friendly without affecting our lifestyle.

As climate change continues to affect the amount of rainfall we receive, we can no longer rely on rainfall to charge our dams and ground water storage. This is why the Water Corporation is developing water sources, such as desalination, that will not rely on rainfall in the future. Similarly, it's why we should ensure that as a community, we too are doing our best to conserve our most precious resource.

You can do your bit by using a Water Corporation endorsed Waterwise Specialist wherever possible. Our Waterwise Specialists have been trained in the latest water saving techniques and can help you save water and money. Visit www.watercorporation.com.au or call the Waterwise Helpline on 13 10 39 to find a Waterwise Specialist near you.



in the home



Taking showers

Long, hot showers not only waste water but heaps of energy too. Showers account for 36% of all water used inside the home, so an easy way to save is to keep your showers short. A 10 minute shower each day in a conventional 12 litres a minute shower uses approximately 43,000 litres of water each year. A 7 minute shower would use approximately 30,000 litres of water a year, a saving of approximately 13,000 litres a year. Using a water efficient 3 'Star' 9 litres a minute shower will save you approximately 20,000 litres a year.

**TOTAL SAVINGS OF APPROXIMATELY
20,000 litres a year or 2,000 buckets**

Reduce the pressure

High water pressure increases flow rates from showers and taps. If you have extremely high water pressure, a registered plumber can fit a pressure reduction valve at your property boundary.



Catch the cold water

Most of us don't like getting into a cold shower, but by waiting for the water to run warm, thousands of litres of water are wasted each year in every household.

Keep a bucket near the shower and use the 'warm up' water on the garden or indoor plants.





Taking baths

Baths are great for a relaxing soak but they use a lot of water. A standard bath uses on average 160 litres of water, whereas a 7 minute water efficient shower uses approximately 60 litres, a saving of 100 litres.

If you are renovating or buying a new home look at fitting a deep, narrow bath and have it fully insulated to retain the temperature. This will reduce the need to top up the bath if it starts to cool.

Brushing your teeth

There is no need to leave the tap running while you brush. It uses up to 9 litres of water a minute. Simply wet your toothbrush before you begin and use a glass of water to rinse your mouth.

Running water while brushing your teeth for two minutes each day = approximately 7,000 litres a year.

Using a cup (250ml) of water while brushing your teeth = approximately 180 litres a year.

**TOTAL SAVINGS OF APPROXIMATELY
7,000 litres a year or 700 buckets**

Rinsing the dishes and vegies

Don't let water run while carrying out tasks such as rinsing dishes or washing fruit and vegetables. A tap running can waste up to 9 litres of water a minute. Use the plug in the sink instead.



Stop leaks

Check for worn tap washers. A dripping tap might not appear to be wasting much water but it quickly adds up. Repair leaking pipes. A single leak over a long period can waste thousands of litres.

Also look out for undetected leaks which can be extremely wasteful and costly. A way to check for leaks is to read the water meter late at night then again early the next morning to see if water was leaking while everyone was asleep.

Reading your water meter regularly and keeping a simple record of your water use can help you alter your water usage habits to suit your budget. It can also help you detect possible leaks. To check for leaks:

- Turn off all taps
- Turn off any equipment which uses water (i.e. washing machine, etc)

Check if the meter is continuing to register whilst water is not being used at the property. This can be done by taking a reading of the meter, left to right, including the red numbers.

If the water meter is still recording, you may wish to consult a Waterwise Plumber to investigate and carry out repairs. For more information visit www.watercorporation.com.au or call 13 13 85.



Install a flow regulator

Installing flow regulators on taps can help to save water by taking the place of regular tap washers and allowing water to flow at predetermined rates. These could save up to 50% of the water you use and they provide softer water with less splashing.

Save with lever mixer taps

Single lever mixer taps are also recommended because the lever action mixes hot and cold water and makes it available instantly. This allows you to find the right water temperature quickly and you won't waste water trying to get the balance right.

Use a dual flush toilet system

The toilet uses 24% of water inside the home. By replacing a standard single flush toilet with a dual flush system, a household could use 75% less water.

Single flush toilet = approximately 44,000 litres a year.

Dual flush toilet = approximately 11,000 litres a year.

TOTAL SAVINGS OF APPROXIMATELY

33,000 litres a year or 3,300 buckets



Only use the loo for ones and twos!

It's surprising how many people use the toilet to flush away cigarette butts, tissues, cotton buds and other rubbish. Apart from the potential to cause problems in the wastewater system, this practice wastes large volumes of water. Place a small bin in your bathroom or next to your toilet so that people have the waterwise option of discarding rubbish.

Fix a leaking toilet

A leaking toilet can be extremely wasteful, losing up to a litre an hour. If this is left unchecked for a year it will waste approximately 9,000 litres of water and you might not even be aware of it. To check your cistern, place a few drops of food colouring in the tank. Without flushing it, look for colouring in the toilet bowl. If it's getting through, you've got a leak, and it's time to call a Waterwise Plumber.

Stopping a leaking toilet = approximately 9,000 litres a year.

TOTAL SAVINGS OF APPROXIMATELY

9,000 litres a year or 900 buckets

Keep drinking water in the fridge

In summer we all enjoy a cool glass of water. Instead of running the tap until it's nice and cold, keep a jug of water in the fridge. You'll save around 5 litres of water each time you have a drink.



Run your dishwasher full

Dishwashers can be thirsty. Older models can use up to 40 litres per wash. New water efficient models can use up to 64% less water than older dishwashers and also save energy.

The way to save water is to operate your dishwasher only when it's full. This way you will also save on your power bills, as well as water. When buying a new dishwasher, look for a 4 'Star' rated model which uses as little as 15 litres per wash.

Older model dishwasher (40 litres per wash per day) = approximately 14,000 litres a year.

4 'Star' rated dishwasher (15 litres per wash per day) = approximately 5,000 litres a year.

**TOTAL SAVINGS OF APPROXIMATELY
9,000 litres a year or 900 buckets**

Find 4.5 'Star' washing machines

Washing machines use around 27% of water in the home. As with dishwashers, try not to operate them with small loads. If you are buying a new machine look for the Water Efficiency Label – the more 'Stars' the better. Consider buying a 4.5 'Star' rated machine.

Conventional washing machines = approximately 60,000 litres a year.

Water efficient washing machines = approximately 25,000 litres a year.

**TOTAL SAVINGS OF APPROXIMATELY
35,000 litres a year or 3,500 buckets**

Get a Waterwise home assessment

A Waterwise Plumber can visit your home and look at all the areas where your home uses water, then provide you with practical advice on how to save more water. To find a Waterwise Specialist near you simply visit our website at www.watercorporation.com.au or call the Waterwise Helpline on 13 10 39.

Building or renovating?

Go to a Waterwise Display Village where all the homes showcase the latest ideas to save water, which in the long run will save money too. If you're planning to build or renovate you have the chance to build water efficient principles into the home design right from the beginning. As well as conserving water, a waterwise home design will also help reduce household energy bills.

Install a greywater re-use system

Greywater re-use systems are another way you can use water efficiently by irrigating your garden with greywater – which comes from places such as the bath, shower and washing machine – instead of precious drinking water.



outside the home

Waterwise Gardens

Get a Waterwise Garden Assessment from your local Waterwise Garden Assessor who will be able to help you improve your garden and save you water. Visit www.watercorporation.com.au or call 13 10 39 to find a Waterwise Specialist near you.

Some simple things you can do:

- Keep planted areas dense and consolidated and group plants according to their water requirements. Sparse scattered plants are more difficult to water efficiently than those in defined areas.
- Make use of windbreaks, pergolas, screens, lattice, shade cloth and vines to shelter the house, outdoor living areas and plants.
- Prepare the soil before planting to ensure that plants can make the most of the water they need.
- Maximise the use of non-planting treatments such as paving and mulches whilst at the same time being aware of the risk of creating hot spots due to large areas of unshaded paving.
- Choose plants that have a low water demand.
- Install a watering system that is both efficient and flexible such as subsurface or drip irrigation.
- As the seasons change, monitor and adjust the amount of water that is applied by your automatic irrigation controller.
- Regularly check your irrigation system is working correctly and when replacing broken sprinklers, always replace like with like.



Use Waterwise plants

Choose Waterwise plants, such as natives that have their origins in WA. Those of local origin are perfectly adapted to our climate and have evolved over millions of years.

For a list of Waterwise plants, visit the Water Corporation website at www.watercorporation.com.au or visit a Waterwise Garden Centre near you.

Mulch your garden

Using mulch can reduce evaporation loss from the soil surface by as much as 70%. Mulch should be spread over the entire planted area to a minimum thickness of 50mm and have at least a 50mm breathing space around the stems at base of plants. Adding organic material such as compost to the soil also helps to retain moisture. Not only will you be saving water, mulch will improve the appearance of your garden.

Use a soil wetter

Soil wetting products break down the water resistance that soils and lawns build up and allow water to penetrate to the roots.

Choose a drought tolerant lawn

Lawn areas form part of our daily lives for recreation and aesthetics. It is important to manage lawns correctly to minimise water wastage and reduce groundwater pollution through excess fertilising. A Waterwise Lawnmowing Contractor can help you keep your lawn in tip top condition.

Visit www.watercorporation.com.au or call 13 10 39 to find your nearest Waterwise Specialist.

Lawn areas should be designed to fit into an overall waterwise garden concept, with the total area kept to a size which is consistent with functional and aesthetic requirements. Choose lawn that requires low water use and is heat and drought tolerant. Warm season grasses such as Couch, Buffalo, Saltene or Kikuyu respond well to the hot summers in Western Australia.

Grow your lawn longer

By growing your lawn longer you will protect the roots and reduce evaporation, so hold off from mowing your lawns another week or two during summer.

Pool covers

Using a pool cover not only keeps your pool warmer and cleaner, it also cuts the evaporation rate between swims. With more than your entire pool's volume of water being lost every year through evaporation, you can save water and money by regularly using a pool cover.

With 85,000 swimming pools in the Perth metropolitan area, topping up pools to compensate for evaporation uses more than 4 billion litres of water every year. By keeping your pool cleaner, pool covers also reduce the need to backwash your filter which can waste water at a fairly significant rate.





Waterwise car wash

If you are taking your car to the car wash, make sure you choose one that recycles water and uses high pressure cleaning units.

Washing your car on the lawn

When it's time to wash your car, use a bucket, as a running hose wastes up to 20 litres of water a minute. By washing your car on the lawn you will be giving your lawn a nutrient boost as car shampoos use phosphates, which can benefit grassy areas in a similar way to many fertilisers.

Use a broom

If you need to clean driveways or paved areas use a broom. Using a hose is a fast way to waste water and can attract a fine.

Trigger nozzles save

Invest in a trigger nozzle for your hose or a watering can and save water. Running a hose that you have little control over wastes water as you tend to water things that don't need watering. With a trigger nozzle, you can choose what you want to water.



Install a rainwater tank

Each year, around 50,000 litres of water could be collected from your roof area and used to supply part of your household's water needs, taking pressure off our drinking water supplies.

Hand water at the base of plants

If you need to hand water, aim the water at the base of the plants to reach the roots. When you water the leaves, it simply evaporates off and is wasted. Also, consider using either a watering can or a trigger nozzle for more accurate aim and less wastage while moving around the garden.

Manage your automatic irrigation controller

It is easy to 'set and forget' your irrigation so it is important to continue to check that the system is working correctly. As seasons change, so too does the water demand of plants. In spring and autumn for example, you need only water once a week and in winter you don't need to water at all.

Also, check the back-up battery is fully charged. In a power black-out, if the battery is not charged, the settings revert to the factory settings and you may be watering outside your sprinkler days.

Waterwise irrigation design

If you are retrofitting or starting from scratch with your irrigation system, a Waterwise Irrigation Design Shop will be able to give you the right advice. You will save water and money in the long run. Visit www.watercorporation.com.au to find one near you.



Waterwise Garden Irrigation System

A Waterwise Garden Irrigation System will not only help you to conserve water, it will also save you money on your next water bill. A Waterwise Garden Irrigator can install the perfect system for your garden. Visit www.watercorporation.com.au or call 13 10 39 to find one near you.

Water the garden – not the road

Ensure that your irrigation is watering the garden and not the road, driveway or pavement. Not only does your garden not get watered, thousands of litres of water are wasted. Remember to check your system regularly and replace worn nozzles or broken seals.

Install a tap timer

Installing a tap timer will help you to control the amount of water you apply to your lawn or garden, so no water is wasted unnecessarily.

Remember in summer any more than 15 minutes watering goes below the roots and is wasted.



Install a bore

In the warmer months up to 70% of all household water is used on the garden. Installing a garden bore will give you huge savings on your scheme water use. If used responsibly and located in an area away from the ocean, river systems and wetlands, bores can be an environmentally friendly way to keep your garden healthy. To find out if a bore is suitable for your area call 13 10 39.

Install a rain sensor

Installing a rain sensor prevents your automatic irrigation system from watering unnecessarily either during or soon after rain.

Water only on your sprinkler days

Homeowners across WA have been allocated specific watering days. These have been based on the last digit of your house number. Where a house number is not available it defaults to your lot number. There are three regions: Perth and Mandurah scheme and bore water users, a northern region and a southern region. The watering rosters are detailed overleaf.

The State Government has indicated, in principle, support for a winter sprinkler ban in June, July and August each year for Perth, Mandurah and some towns in the south of the State. Visit the Water Corporation website www.watercorporation.com.au for the latest information about this initiative.



South of Kalbarri & Kalgoorlie Watering Days

Last digit of your lot or house number	Your 2 scheme watering days are:
1	Wednesday & Saturday
2	Thursday & Sunday
3	Friday & Monday
4	Saturday & Tuesday
5	Sunday & Wednesday
6	Monday & Thursday
7	Tuesday & Friday
8	Wednesday & Saturday
9	Thursday & Sunday
0	Friday & Monday

Where a house number is not available, it defaults to your lot number.
You may water only once either before 9am or after 6pm.

Perth & Mandurah Metro Watering Days

Last digit of your lot or house number	Scheme and bore water users, your 2 watering days are:	Bore owners additional day:
1	Wednesday & Saturday	Monday
2	Thursday & Sunday	Tuesday
3	Friday & Monday	Wednesday
4	Saturday & Tuesday	Thursday
5	Sunday & Wednesday	Friday
6	Monday & Thursday	Saturday
7	Tuesday & Friday	Sunday
8	Wednesday & Saturday	Monday
9	Thursday & Sunday	Tuesday
0	Friday & Monday	Wednesday

Where a house number is not available, it defaults to your lot number.
You may water only once either before 9am or after 6pm.

North of Kalbarri & Kalgoorlie Watering Days

Last digit of your lot or house number	Your 2 scheme watering days are:
1	1st, 3rd, 5th, 7th, 9th, 11th, 13th, etc
2	2nd, 4th, 6th, 8th, 10th, 12th, 14th, etc
3	1st, 3rd, 5th, 7th, 9th, 11th, 13th, etc
4	2nd, 4th, 6th, 8th, 10th, 12th, 14th, etc
5	1st, 3rd, 5th, 7th, 9th, 11th, 13th, etc
6	2nd, 4th, 6th, 8th, 10th, 12th, 14th, etc
7	1st, 3rd, 5th, 7th, 9th, 11th, 13th, etc
8	2nd, 4th, 6th, 8th, 10th, 12th, 14th, etc
9	1st, 3rd, 5th, 7th, 9th, 11th, 13th, etc
0	2nd, 4th, 6th, 8th, 10th, 12th, 14th, etc

Where a house number is not available, it defaults to your lot number.
You may water only once either before 9am or after 6pm.



Early in the morning is best

There is a year round state-wide ban on watering with sprinklers between the hours of 9am and 6pm. In summer water only once on your allocated watering days, ideally early in the morning (plants do not absorb water during darkness) so that gardens are charged with the water they need during the warmest part of the day.

One drink in autumn and spring

During autumn and spring our gardens only need to be watered once a week. With cooler nights, morning dew and low evaporation, your garden will retain the moisture it needs. When rain is forecast or if it has rained, remember to turn off your sprinkler system.

Turn off your irrigation system in winter

Now that winter is here, you should turn off your automatic irrigation system. During the cooler winter months, lawns and many plants are dormant so they need very little water. Usually the rainfall received during winter is enough and any more just tends to promote weed growth.



Waterwise garden design

A Waterwise Landscaper can plan, prepare and plant a water efficient garden that uses less water and saves you time and money. Visit www.watercorporation.com.au or call 13 10 39 to find a Waterwise Specialist near you.

Conduct your own Water Audit

You might like to conduct your own water audit. To do this:

- Ensure no water using devices are in use.
- Take a reading of the meter, left to right, including the red numbers (for more information on how to read your water meter, visit www.watercorporation.com.au or call 13 10 39).
- Carry out a normal water using activity, for example running irrigation, taking a shower, flushing the toilet or doing the dishes, making sure no other equipment that uses water is in use.
- Read the meter again and make a note of how much water has been used.
- Repeat for other activities.

Once you know how much water each activity uses you can take steps to reduce your water usage.

Visit a Waterwise Garden Centre

All Waterwise Garden Centres have a variety of information on how to make your garden waterwise, including garden designs and plant species. They will also give you great ideas on how to plan, prepare and plant your garden so it uses less water. The garden centres also stock a large range of products such as mulches, soil conditioners and soil wetting agents to further assist in conserving water in your garden. To find your nearest Waterwise Garden Centre visit www.watercorporation.com.au or call on 13 10 39.