

## How to be waterwise inside

### Bathroom

- ◆ Take a short shower. A standard shower head can use 20 litres of water a minute. Install a 3-star rated shower head that uses no more than 9 litres of water a minute.
- ◆ Turn off the shower while lathering and conditioning your hair.
- ◆ Turn the tap off when brushing your teeth—you can save ten litres of water every time you brush!
- ◆ Install a 4-star rated dual-flush toilet—you will save an average of nearly 8 litres of water every flush.
- ◆ Remember, unnecessary flushing is one of the biggest wasters of water. Don't flush needlessly, and never flush items other than toilet paper down the toilet.

### Kitchen

- ◆ Wash vegetables in a bowl of clean water and reuse the water in your garden.
- ◆ After cooking vegetables, reuse the nutrient-rich water in your garden. Be sure to let it cool first.
- ◆ Scrape your dishes and soak your pots and pans to remove food rather than rinsing them under running water.
- ◆ When washing dishes by hand, fill one sink with soapy water and another with rinsing water instead of rinsing dishes under a running tap.
- ◆ Use the economy setting on your dishwasher and only wash when you have a full load.

- ◆ Store drinking-water in the fridge—running the tap until the water is cool wastes up to 15 litres of water a minute.

### Laundry

- ◆ Pre-treat heavy stains—this will reduce the chances of having to rewash.
- ◆ When washing clothes by hand, don't overfill your laundry basin.
- ◆ Only wash when you have a full load.
- ◆ Reuse your greywater on your garden. For more information on safely reusing greywater visit our website at <[www.derm.qld.gov.au](http://www.derm.qld.gov.au)>.
- ◆ Use biodegradable, low-phosphorus, low-sodium and low-nitrogen detergents and washing products. They are better for your garden and the environment.
- ◆ Use a 4-star or above WELS-rated washing machine.



## How to be waterwise outside

### Garden

- ◆ Control weeds—weeds are water thieves!
- ◆ Mulch generously—it reduces water loss from evaporation, improves your soil and discourages weeds.
- ◆ Compost food scraps—compost enriches the soil by helping to absorb and hold more water.
- ◆ Fertilise your lawn sparingly—using too much will encourage your lawn to grow too quickly. Slow-release fertiliser with low nitrogen content is best.
- ◆ Select plants that are suitable for your climatic region. There are a range of native and exotic plants that look great and thrive in dry conditions.
- ◆ Only water your garden early in the morning or in the evening, and never in windy conditions, to reduce the amount of water lost to evaporation.
- ◆ If you use an irrigation system (including a sprinkler) ensure that it meets the guideline for Efficient Irrigation for Water Conservation. Visit <[www.qwc.qld.gov.au](http://www.qwc.qld.gov.au)> for more information.

### Pool

- ◆ A properly fitted pool blanket can prevent up to 97 per cent of evaporation if used effectively.
- ◆ Use a water tank or a rainwater diverter to top up your pool.
- ◆ Check your pool for leaks—a tiny leak could result in a large amount of water loss.

### Leaks

- ◆ Use your water meter regularly to check for leaks in outdoor pipes, taps and plumbing fixtures.
- ◆ Fix leaking taps! Just one slow-leaking tap could waste 10 000 litres of water a year.
- ◆ Toilet cisterns are a common water leak and can be easily checked by following these steps:
  1. Pour food colouring into the toilet cistern.
  2. If colour appears in the toilet bowl before flushing, you have a leak.
  3. Flush as soon as the test has been completed as food colouring may stain the cistern.
  4. Contact a licensed plumber to repair the leak.

### Cleaning hard surfaces

- ◆ Use a broom, blower or vacuum to clear away dust and loose debris from paved surfaces.

#### More information

To find out more about:

- ◆ WELS (Water Efficiency Labelling Scheme) ratings, go to <[www.waterrating.gov.au](http://www.waterrating.gov.au)>
- ◆ water-saving products for around the home, go to <[www.smartwatermark.org](http://www.smartwatermark.org)>
- ◆ how to check for leaks and for other ways you can help conserve water, go to <[www.derm.qld.gov.au](http://www.derm.qld.gov.au)>
- ◆ saving water in your local area, contact Wide Bay Water Corporation on 1300 808 888 or visit <[www.widebaywater.qld.gov.au](http://www.widebaywater.qld.gov.au)>.

waterwise  
Queensland

Department of  
Environment  
and Resource  
Management

## Home waterwise quiz



#28692

WIDE BAY water  
CORPORATION  
water today water tomorrow

Queensland  
Government

## Why be waterwise?

Water is a precious resource and we need to conserve it now and for our future. By changing some of your habits you can:

- save water
- save money
- save the environment.

**Being waterwise is easy. Make a difference today!**

## Save water

Fresh, clean water is a precious resource. The water we have on Earth now is the same water that was here millions of years ago; it simply keeps recirculating. This means that we won't get any more water, so we need to be careful with the resources we have.

## Save the environment

Saving water means that more water is available for the environment.

By saving water, less wastewater is produced. This potentially reduces the volume of detergents and contaminants that end up in our waterways.

Using less water also means that less energy is required to treat and transfer water. This helps to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.



## Save money

Saving water also saves money, by reducing:

- your household water bill
- your household energy bill. If less hot water is used, your energy consumption also decreases
- water infrastructure costs. Delivering quality drinking water to your home involves infrastructure such as dams, water and wastewater treatments plants
- energy costs associated with treating water and wastewater.

## How waterwise are you?

Take this five minute quiz and identify some areas around your home where you can save water.

Responses are graded from less water efficient (three water drops) to more water efficient (one water drop). Simply record the appropriate number of water drops for your response to each question in the score column and then add them together to calculate your total score.

The scores given for each question are a measure of good and bad water saving behaviours only. They do not reflect the actual amount of water consumed, and they cannot be compared between questions.

## Take the home waterwise quiz!

	◆◆◆	◆◆	◆	Score
<b>Bathroom</b>				
Do you have a water-efficient showerhead? OR test your showerhead: How long does it take to fill a 9-litre bucket of water?	No	30 seconds to 1 minute (Water efficient)	Yes	
How long was your last shower?	Less than 30 seconds (Not water efficient)	5-8 minutes	More than 1 minute (Water efficient)	4 minutes or less
Do you turn the tap off while you brush your teeth?	No	Yes	Yes, and rinse with a cup	
What type of flush system do your toilets have?	Single flush	Dual flush (1 to 3-star)	New 4.5/3-litre dual flush (4-star)	
Does your toilet leak? See leaks section on reverse for testing instructions.	Yes		No	
<b>Kitchen</b>				
How do you wash your dishes?	Dishwasher	By hand or using economy setting on dishwasher (full loads only)	4-star or above dishwasher (full loads only)	
How do you prepare your dishes for washing?	Rinsing under running water	Rinsing in a half full sink of water	Scraping the plate clean of waste	
How do you wash your vegetables?	Under running water	In a half-filled sink	Using a small amount of water in a bowl or tub	
<b>Laundry</b>				
What type of washing machine do you use?	Top loader	Front loader	4-star or above	
<b>Outside</b>				
What time of the day do you water your garden?	During the heat of the day	Early morning or evening only	I don't water	
What is the usual source of water used in your garden?	Town/mains supply	Other (e.g. greywater)	Rainwater	
How do you clean your driveways and footpaths?	With a hose	With a high-pressure water cleaner	With a broom or blower; don't clean	
How do you wash your car at home?	In the street or on the driveway, with a hose	On the lawn, with a hose	On the lawn, with a bucket to clean and a trigger-nozzle hose to rinse; don't wash car at home	
Do you have a swimming pool?	Yes	Yes, with a regularly used cover or a rainwater tank/diverter for top-up	No; or Yes with a regularly used cover <b>and</b> a rainwater tank/diverter for top-up	
<b>TOTAL</b>	Total your score from each question			

### How did you score?

**More than 22:** The good news is there are a lot more things you can do to become more water efficient. Try following the helpful suggestions contained in this brochure. You can also find more water-saving ideas at [www.derm.qld.gov.au](http://www.derm.qld.gov.au).

**16 to 22:** Well done! Look at some of the helpful hints contained in this brochure or in our information sheets to help you save even more water!

**15 or less:** Congratulations! You are a great water saver. Keep up the good work and keep looking for new ways to save water. You may have even found some in this brochure!