

20 Water conservation tips

Take a quick shower instead of a bath (use a timer to limit the amount of water used)

Install a dual flush toilet cistern

When rinsing clothing, use a basin or put the plug in, instead of leaving the tap running

Keep water in a covered container in the fridge. It saves running the tap to get cold water

Look for a drought resistant lawn seed mix when laying a new lawn (eg Perennial Ryegrass, Fescues and Kentucky Bluegrass)

Grow your grass a little longer. It will stay greener than a close mown lawn and needs less watering

Re-use water where possible. Tip soapy water over flower-beds which will keep down the bugs

Use a bowl to scrub vegetables in the kitchen sink. Put the used water on the lawn

Use covers on swimming pools and spas to prevent water evaporating

Up to 73% of your garden water just evaporates (unless you apply a good mulch around trees and shrubs)

Turn the tap off while brushing your teeth. You use 1 litre with the tap off and 5 litres with the tap running

Don't use your toilet as a rubbish bin. 5 to 12 litres is wasted every time you flush it

Use the dirty water when cleaning your fish tank on your houseplants. It's rich in nitrogen and phosphorus which provides an excellent fertiliser

Never water the garden in the heat of the day (it causes leaf burn and excessive evaporation)

If your sprinkler is spraying water on the driveway or paths, turn it down or reposition it. A sprinkler can use as much water in an hour as a family of four will use in a day

Get rid of the weeds in your garden as they compete with your plants for the available water

Don't use your washing machine until you have a full load. The average wash needs around 95 litres. A full load uses less water than two half loads

Use a bucket of water when washing your boat or car. Use the hose for a quick spray to finish

Fix all leaking tap washers around your home. A dripping tap can waste up to 33 litres of water per day

Xeriscape means 'to landscape for water conservation'. The idea is to use plants that require less water