

## In your home

Under the current system of water pricing, consumers can make significant savings by reducing the amount of water they use.

**Try implementing some of these simple water saving tips in and around your home.**

Read your water meter each week to estimate your daily, monthly and annual water usage.

Check for hidden leaks in the home and outside, and replace tap washers regularly (a continuously dripping tap can waste up to 600 litres per day).

Water efficient shower heads (9.5 litres per minute) can cut water usage by half. Take shorter showers, for example a 4-5 minute shower can provide further savings.

Install a dual flush toilet (6-9 litres per flush) so you can choose how much water you use. Don't use the toilet to flush away tissues or wrappers.

Turn off the water while brushing your teeth, shaving and peeling vegetables (5 litres per minute).

Collect the necessary amount of water in the sink to wash your hands, clean vegetables or scrape the dishes, rather than letting the tap run.

Only use the dishwasher when full (60-100 litres per load).

Do full loads of washing and consider buying a water-saving front loading washing machine. Alternatively, use the low level water setting for small loads (40-270 litres per load).

Try a quarter turn of the tap for regular use.

Look for the AAA water efficiency rating when buying appliances for the bathroom, laundry or kitchen.

Install water saving devices such as flow regulators and flow restrictors, single lever taps, water efficient shower systems, quarter turn taps or pressure limiting valves.

## In the garden

Toughen your lawn and water at night to prevent evaporation (1000 litres per hour). Fertilising lightly and regularly will mean it needs about 30 per cent less water.

Leave some of the grass clippings on the lawn to reduce the need for fertiliser and make the lawn hardier.

Water your plants once a week, not every day.

Grow native plants.

If water runs off your garden, use mulch or worms to improve soil condition so the water will soak in. Garden mulch can prevent up to 80 per cent of evaporation loss.

Wash your car on the lawn. Use a bucket then rinse off with the hose (100-150 litres).

## How to check for leaks

Leaks can occur in household water pipes, fittings and appliances. They are not always visible so the best method of detection is to read your water meter regularly. If your consumption increases dramatically for no obvious reason, there could be a hidden leak.

Other methods of leak detection include:

- checking the toilet system by pouring some food colouring into the cistern. If the colouring appears in the toilet bowl before flushing, there is a leak
- turning off every tap in the house and checking the reading on your water meter. Do not use any water (including the toilet) for at least 30 minutes or overnight and check the meter again. If it has moved, there is a leak
- checking the leak detection dial on your water meter (if fitted). If it is moving when there is no water being used, there is a leak.


In genuine cases where you have been able to detect a leak, Council's Water Leakage Policy may allow you to claim a rebate on the high use water bill. However, this will only happen where you can provide evidence that a leak has been repaired.

**If you cannot find the exact location of the problem, contact a plumber.**



# How to Lower Your Water Bill

How much is a kilolitre of water?



**4000** glasses  
of water



**5** bathtubs  
full of water



**10** five-minute  
showers



**166** toilet  
half-flushes



**1 hour**  
of sprinkler  
use