

## Install rainwater tanks

Rainwater tanks can reduce your water bill and provide an extra source of water for the garden.

Tanks come in many shapes and sizes - some even go under the house.



Contact your local Shire building department before installing any underground tanks.

Before you make a decision, ask yourself these questions:

- What will you use the water for?
- What are the local rainfall patterns in your area?
- How much of your roof area can be used to catch water?
- How much space do you have available?
- The tank will need ongoing maintenance, how will this be done?
- Use a licensed plumber to help you choose the best tank for your needs.



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## Water Saving Ideas

### All around the house & garden

- Dripping taps waste water.
- Be sure to **turn taps off** completely.
- **Fix leaky taps** and plumbing.
- Water the garden, not the path or road.
- Wash your car on the lawn. This also stops detergents entering our waterway.
- If you need to clean your driveway and paved areas, use a broom and bucket, not a hose.
- Use a pool cover, this keeps your pool cleaner and stops evaporation of up to an entire pool volume each year.
- Plant a native water-wise garden.
- Use plenty of mulch on your garden.
- Use a soil wetter or water crystals on your garden to improve water retention.
- Choose a drought tolerant lawn.
- Install a grey water re-use system.



# WATER SAVING IDEAS

## Save water in the laundry

About 15-20% of household water is used in the laundry.

To cut down:

- Buy a washing machine with at least a **3.5 star energy rating** and **4 star water rating**.
- Buy a **front-loading machine** - it's better for your clothes as well as your water and energy bills.
- Only use the washing machine when you have a **full load**. Otherwise, use half-load or eco functions.



## Save water in the kitchen

Around 10% of total household water use happens in the kitchen, and the dishwasher is the highest consumer. But an efficient dishwasher consumes less water than hand washing.

- Buy a dishwasher with at least a **3.5 star energy rating** and **3.5 star water rating**, preferably a model with half-wash and economy options.
- Run the dishwasher with a **full load**.
- Reduce the amount of rinsing you do before loading dishes.
- Select more energy and water efficient cycles when heavy duty cleaning isn't required.

**Show everyone in your house how to use the dishwasher efficiently**

## Save water in the bathroom and toilet

Nearly **40%** of water in most homes is used in the bathroom and toilet. Save water here for a big impact on your overall water usage.

### Toilets

Replacing a standard single flush toilet with a dual flush system could save a household **90 litres** a day.

**Fix any leaks** in the toilet. Add food dye to the toilet cistern - if the water in the bowl is coloured before you flush, you've got a leak.

### Showers

Baths use more water than showers, so avoid them if you can. Instead of topping up with more water after you reach the right level, check the temperature as you fill the bath.

**Take shorter showers.** Aim for four minutes and use a timer to keep track. A shower uses about 12 litres per minute.

### Install water-saving showerheads:

This can save you 3 litres of water per minute.

### Basins

You can save water even when brushing your teeth or shaving. Rinse with a glass of water when brushing your teeth. Fill the basin with warm water to rinse razors.

## Do a water audit at your place

Involve the whole family so they can see the results of their water-using.

- Ensure no water-using devices are in use.
- Take a reading of your meter, left to right including the red numbers.
- Carry out a normal water-using activity, for example running reticulation, 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.

