

## Fact sheet

May 2010

# Water saving tips

**There are a number of simple things you can do to reduce the amount of water you use in your home and garden and save money.**

**Sydney Water** tells us that about 27 percent of water is used outdoors, 24 percent on showers, 20 percent in the laundry, 16 percent on flushing the toilet and 13 percent in the kitchen and bathroom.

Just follow the tips below to start saving water and money!

### Tips for inside the home

- Don't leave the tap running when brushing your teeth, washing your face or shaving – this uses about **two buckets** a minute.
- Shorten your shower time – you use about **two buckets** a minute.
- Wash clothes only when you have a full load of washing – an average washing machine uses about **11 buckets** a load.
- Consider buying water-efficient washing machines such as a front-loading machine that uses much less water than a top-loading machine.
- Put the plug in the sink when peeling vegetables, rinsing dishes or washing your hands.
- Check your plumbing for any drips or leaks.

### Tips for outside the home

- Wash your car on the lawn using a bucket and sponge; bucket washing uses **11 buckets**, hose washing uses **20 buckets** a wash. Also, car shampoos contain phosphates, which benefit grassy areas in a similar way to many fertilisers.
- Don't cut the lawn too short; set the mower height to three centimetres or higher, which reduces the amount of water your lawn needs to stay green and healthy.
- Sweep paved areas, driveways and paths with a broom; hosing the driveway uses about **two buckets** a minute.
- Water your garden early in the morning or later in the evening, and water the base of the plants and not the leaves.
- Select native and other water-wise plants, and group plants that have similar watering needs together.
- Use mulch and add organic material such as compost to the soil, which helps the soil retain moisture and reduce evaporation.
- Check your plumbing for any drips or leaks.

**But remember, you must always comply with your local water restrictions.**

More tips for saving water are available through the Sydney Water website [www.sydneywater.com.au](http://www.sydneywater.com.au)



### Check for leaks

- Make sure all taps are turned off, including the washing machine
- Check your water meter – if the numbers are turning over it means that water is running somewhere in your home. If this is happening, check:
  - that water isn't running into the toilet bowl
  - that the hot water service isn't leaking on to the ground
  - that taps aren't leaking inside or outside your home.

### Report leaks

Report dripping taps, running cisterns, leaking, hot water service or pipes and faulty water connections to the Housing Contact Centre on 1300 HOUSING as soon as you notice the problem.

### Are all your questions answered?

If all your questions have not been answered in this fact sheet:

- contact your local Housing NSW office
- or
- call 1300 HOUSING (1300 468 746)
- or
- go to the Housing NSW website [www.housing.nsw.gov.au](http://www.housing.nsw.gov.au)

It is illegal for an officer of Housing NSW to ask for money or favours or other benefits of any kind in exchange for helping you with your housing needs.

It is also illegal for you or anyone else to offer money or favours or other benefits of any kind to an officer of Housing NSW in exchange for helping you. If you have any information regarding this, please contact Business Assurance on 1300 HOUSING (1300 468 746). Housing NSW may refuse the provision of further housing services to anyone who has engaged or sought to engage in corrupt or illegal conduct.

#### Translation service

Arabic	خدمة الترجمة الخطية والشفهية المجانية اتصل على الرقم 131 450
Chinese	免費的翻譯傳譯服務 致電 131 450
Russian	Служба бесплатного письменного и устного перевода Позвоните по номеру 131 450
Spanish	Servicio Gratuito de Traducción e Interpretación Llame al 131 450
Vietnamese	Dịch vụ Phiên dịch và Thông dịch Miễn phí Điện thoại 131 450