

10 easy ways to be water wise in your home



Households use 70% of the water consumed in Sydney, Illawarra and the Blue Mountains. About two thirds of this is used indoors. Being water wise is easy if you follow the tips below.

1. Drinking water

Keep a container of drinking water in the fridge so that you don't run water down the sink waiting for it to cool.

2. Thawing frozen foods

Thaw frozen foods in the fridge or microwave rather than placing them under running water.

3. Washing vegetables

Wash vegetables and rinse dishes in a plugged sink or basin – not under a running tap.

4. Cooking vegetables

Microwave, steam or use a pressure cooker to cook vegetables. This retains more flavour and uses less water than traditional boiling.

5. Washing

Wait for a full load of washing before reaching for the detergent. Every load less saves 14 buckets of water. Buy a 4½ star water efficient machine and get a \$150 rebate from Sydney Water.

6. Install a water efficient showerhead

Install a 3-star rated water efficient showerhead and save on water and energy costs. Or sign up for Water Fix and for \$22, we'll make your home more water efficient.

7. Taps

Prevent taps from leaking by turning them off tightly and replacing washers as soon as they begin to leak.

8. Bathroom

Turn the tap off when you are brushing your teeth or shaving rather than leaving the water running.

9. Half flush toilet

Use the half flush and save up to four buckets of water a day. You can also sign up for our Toilet Replacement Service. Sydney Water will install a 4-star dual flush model toilet in less than three hours.

10. Repair leaking toilets

Check for leaks in your toilet by adding food dye to the cistern. If colour appears in the bowl within half an hour it is time to do some DIY or call a qualified plumber.

10 easy ways to be water wise in your garden



1. Love your garden

Sign up for the Love Your Garden Program and for \$33 have a horticulturist visit your home and develop a tailored watering plan for your garden. To register visit www.sydneywater.com.au

2. Plant selection

Before buying plants look at our plant selector to find out which plants are most compatible with the climate and soil in your area. Go to www.sydneywater.com.au

3. Planting new garden beds

Group plants with similar watering needs together. This helps ensure they all receive the right amount of water.

4. Water efficiently

Always use a watering can or a trigger nozzle on a hose so you only water those areas that need it. Water the base of plants, not the leaves. Check how quickly the soil absorbs the water before it runs off.

5. Composting

Keep all your kitchen scraps, lawn clippings and garden waste – they're perfect for homemade compost, which your soil will love.

6. Mulching

Applying a layer of mulch around plants will reduce water evaporation and help to keep weeds down.

7. Washing your car

Wash your car on the lawn so that you water and fertilise the grass at the same time. Car shampoos use phosphates that are similar to many fertilisers.

8. Cleaning

Always use a broom or rake rather than a hose to clear driveways and pathways of debris.

9. Improve your soil

Think of your garden's soil as an underground water tank. You can more than double its water holding ability by increasing its depth, making it less compacted and adding composted organic material.

10. Weeding

Remove weeds as soon as they spring up – they are notorious water thieves.

