



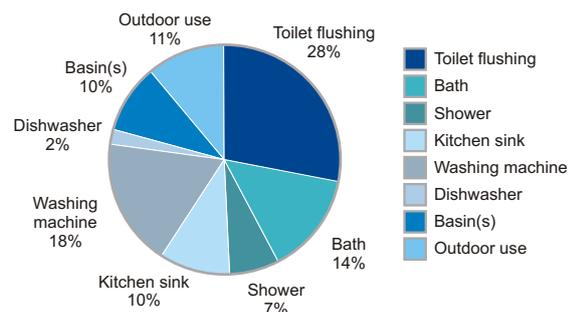
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Water-wise tips

Everyone has to play an active role in saving water at home. This will reduce our water bills and leave more water available for a larger population. It is thus critical to become water-wise and help to conserve our precious water. The key to saving water is to reduce waste and not to restrict use.



Using water more efficiently in the kitchen

The kitchen is a major consumer of water in the home, where around 10% of total household water is used for cooking, cleaning, washing and drinking.

- Avoid drinking water from a running tap; collect the water in a bottle or jug and store it in the fridge until needed.
- Collect the water in which you rinse fruit and vegetables for watering your houseplants.
- Soak pots and pans instead of letting the water run while you scrape them clean.
- Don't wash and rinse dishes under a running tap. Fill one sink with wash water and the other with rinse water.

- Don't use running water to defrost food. Defrost food in the refrigerator or microwave oven.
- Use dish-washing liquid sparingly, as this will reduce the amount of rinsing required for dishes.
- Catch running water while you wait for hot water from the tap. Use the collected water for plants, to rinse dishes or wash fruit and vegetables.
- Wash your fruit and vegetables in a bowl of water instead of under a running tap.
- Scrape instead of rinse dishes before washing them. There is no need to rinse them beforehand unless they are heavily soiled.

Washing Clothes

- Consider purchasing a front-loading machine, as it uses 40% less water.
- Always have a full load or match the water level to the size of the load.



General

- Fill the washing basin with water for shaving and for rinsing your hair, and use water in a glass for brushing your teeth. Don't use running water for these purposes.
- Keep the previous night's bath and shower water for pre-soaking dirty washing.
- Collect rainwater for reuse in the garden or washing the car.

Purpose Purpose

This Electronic Newsletter gives consumers basic information about various issues related to Water and Sanitation. Every issue will address different topics on water, sanitation, health and hygiene and / or water conservation and demand management.



Become Water Wise

and help to conserve our precious water

■ Using water more efficiently in the bathroom



- Bathing makes for the second highest use of water inside most homes.
- Bathing also makes for the second highest use of energy in the home, because it takes a lot of electricity to keep bath water hot.
- The average bath holds from 150 to 200 l water when filled to the overflow level.
- If you can reduce the amount of water you use in your bath, you can reduce your monthly water and electricity account.
- One of the easiest ways to save water and electricity in the bathroom is by taking a quick shower instead of a bath.
- The bathroom uses around 49% of all water used inside the home.
- The toilet hardly takes up any space, yet it is the biggest guzzler of indoor water. Every time you flush the toilet, it uses about 11 l of water.
- Never use the toilet to dispose of cleansing tissues, cigarette butts or other trash. This wastes a great deal of water and also places an unnecessary load on the sewage treatment plant or septic tank.
- Upgrade older toilets with water-efficient models.
- Before running a bath, plug the tub and adjust the temperature while the tub fills up.
- If your toilet flapper doesn't close after flushing, replace it.
- Turn off the water while brushing your teeth and save 95 l of water a month.
- A tap left running can waste up to 17 l of water per minute.
- A leaking toilet can waste up to 16 000 l of water per year.
- A dripping tap can waste up to 2 000 l a month. That's 24 000 l a year, which is more than an average household uses in a month.
- Checking for leaks in taps, pipes and dishwasher hoses is an easy way to reduce water wastage. Remember, one leaking tap can waste up to 2 000 l of water a month.

■ How much can I save

You can save water, the environment and money in three ways.

- **REDUCE** your daily usage of water after you have identified ways in which you can economise your usage of water.
- **REUSE** water wherever possible. Identify water that can be reused elsewhere. Virtually all water coming out of a tap can be used at least twice.
- **REPAIR** leaking pipes, taps and toilet cisterns. Do a water audit in your home and identify all water leaks.

■ Using water more efficiently in the garden

- Plant indigenous plants, as they require less water than alien plants.
- Adjust sprinklers so only your lawn is watered and not the house, sidewalk or street.
- Water your lawn and garden in the morning or evening when temperatures are cooler and moisture evaporates slower.
- Collect water from your roof to water your garden.
- Check the root zone of your lawn or garden for moisture before watering. Use a spade or trowel. If the soil is moist two inches under the surface, there is enough moisture.
- Adjust your lawn mower to a higher setting. A taller lawn shades roots and holds soil moisture better than a closely clipped lawn.
- Set a kitchen timer when watering your lawn or garden to remind you when to stop. A running hose can discharge up to 38 l of water per minute.

REPORT -

no water supply; water pipes burst; leaking meters; and blocked street sewers
to 012 358 2111/9999 or 080 1111 556 (toll-free)

Industrial effluent enquiries: 012 358 9067/9078/9999

Pollution spill response service: 012 358 9067/9078/9999