Using water at home

We use water in many ways in our day-to-day lives. Common household activities such as drinking, washing and watering all rely on water.

How we use water in the home

Breakdown of home water use

- 30% Shower
- 20% Outdoor
- 14% Toilet
- 16% Washing machine
- 1% Dishwasher
- 19% Tap, bath and other

Home water use

How can we reduce our water use?

**There are simple things we can do to use less water.**

We know that small changes can make a big difference. The average yearly water use for each person living in Melbourne’s south east is 30 per cent (a whopping 22,600 litres) less than five years ago.

**Love every drop**

**Fix**

Fix a dripping tap (which can be as easy as changing the washer).

- **Save up to 20,000L a year**

**Water**

Water your garden during cooler hours (early morning or late evening) – this reduces evaporation, giving the water a greater chance of reaching the roots.

- **Save up to 35,000L a year**

**Install**

Install a dual flush toilet.

- **Save up to 20,000L a year**

**Wash**

Wash your vegetables in a bowl rather than under a running tap.

- **Save up to 20,000L a year**

**Replace**

Replace your high-flow showerhead with a water efficient model.

- **Save up to 20,000L a year**

**Consider**

Consider a front loader instead of a top loader when purchasing a washing machine.

* per household
How much water do you use?

The following information can help you to get a rough idea of how much water you or your household uses. It can also identify ways you can use water more efficiently.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bathroom</th>
<th>Per (unit)</th>
<th>Litres</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Basin</td>
<td>Running tap</td>
<td>Minute</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ordinary showerhead</td>
<td>Minute</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Water efficient showerhead</td>
<td>Minute</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Toilet</td>
<td>Single flush</td>
<td>Flush</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Dual flush</td>
<td>Flush</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bath</td>
<td>Full</td>
<td>Bath</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Half full</td>
<td>Bath</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Outdoors</th>
<th>Per (unit)</th>
<th>Litres</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Watering</td>
<td>Hand-held hose/sprinkler</td>
<td>Minute</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Bucket or watering can</td>
<td>Bucket</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Washing the car</td>
<td>Trigger nozzle hose</td>
<td>Minute</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>High pressure cleaning device</td>
<td>Minute</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: All figures are based on assumptions.

Other ways we use water around the home

Irrigation systems

Maintenance of your irrigation system is important. Find out how many days a week your system is set to. The instructions should be in the operating manual.

Swimming pools

Pool covers and cartridge filters can save over 30,000 litres of water per year.

Evaporative cooler

Evaporative coolers may be using more water than you think. Check filters once a year and ask a licensed plumber to check the settings on your unit.

Visit southeastwater.com.au for more information about our products and services.

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