

# Using water at home

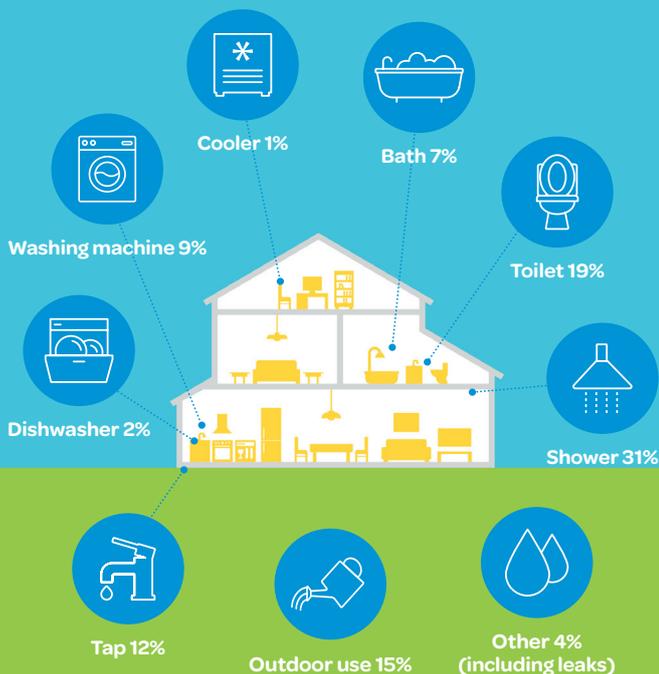
With water on tap, few of us stop to think about how much we use day-to-day. Or how a few simple changes can save bucket loads.

## Breaking down your daily water use

On average, in 2017-18 we each used 163 litres a day. Over the year, that's about 60,000 litres or 6,450 buckets\*.

\*Based on a standard 9.3L multipurpose bucket.

## Where we use water at home



## We've made real progress

As a city, we're using the same amount of water as we did in 1980 – even though our population has doubled. It just goes to show that Melbourne's a water wise city. Let's stay this way as our population continues to grow, so our world-class water keeps supporting everyone.

## Six easy ways to save water and make a difference

As always, it's the little things that make the biggest difference. Especially as 64 per cent of Melbourne's water is used in homes.

### 1. Fix a dripping tap

It might be as straightforward as replacing the washer or turning your taps off tightly.

Save up to 16,000L a year per household

### 2. Water your garden early (or late)

Giving plants a drink during cooler hours of the day reduces evaporation, so more water reaches the roots. If it's forecast to rain, why water at all?

### 3. Use half flush (when you can)

Most Melbourne homes now have a dual flush toilet. Do you? Switching is a great way to save.

Save up to 35,000L a year per household

### 4. Turn off the tap when you brush your teeth

That's two minutes of drinking water saved from the drain every time you brush.

Save up to 7,000L per person a year

### 5. Use the eco settings on your appliances

You can use less water just by choosing a different cycle on your washing machine or dishwasher. Look out for the 'eco' cycle (and choose a front loading machine if you're upgrading, they use far less water than top loaders).

### 6. Shave a minute off your shower time

In 2017-18, the average shower time was seven minutes. The impact would be enormous if we all turned off the taps just one minute earlier.

Save up to 2,500L per person a year

## How much water do you use?

We get that it's hard to visualise how much water you or your household uses. Hopefully this table helps. It could even flag where water can be used more efficiently at your place.

Bathroom		
Basin tap		5 litres a minute
Shower		14 litres a minute (ordinary showerhead)
		8 litres a minute (water efficient showerhead)
Toilet		12 litres (full flush, single flush toilet)
		4.5 litres (full flush, dual flush toilet)
Bath		140 litres (full bath)
		80 litres (half bath)
Kitchen		
Standard sink		up to 20 litres
Dishwasher		25 litres a cycle (older model)
		12 litres a cycle (newer model)
Laundry		
Washing machine		140 litres a cycle (top loader)
		70 litres a cycle (front loader)
Trough		up to 45 litres
Outdoors		
Hand-held hose/sprinkler		12 litres a minute
Bucket or watering can		9 litres
Trigger nozzle hose		12 litres a minute
High pressure cleaning device		8 litres a minute

Note: All figures are based on industry data, research and modelling.

## How much water should I be using?

Wondering what the average water use should be for a household your size? You'll find this table on your water bill, too. Where do you sit?

Number of people in household					
Average daily use (litres) per person	155	310	465	620	775

YOUR TARGETS

## Other tips to use water efficiently at home

### Maintain your irrigation systems

Take a look in the operating manual to see how many days a week your system is set to. Watering every few days (or not at all when it's scheduled to rain) can keep your garden thriving.

### Swimming pool savings

Without a pool cover (which prevents evaporation), you could lose 90 per cent of your pool's water volume each year.

### Keep check of your evaporative cooler

Coolers are critical to maintain a healthy lifestyle. However they may use more water than you think, especially if there's a leak. So check the filters at least once a year and ask a licensed air conditioning technician or plumber to check the settings.

## How to stop leaks

They can waste a lot of water – and impact your water bill, too. Not sure if you have a leak?



For tips and tests visit [southeastwater.com.au/leaks](https://southeastwater.com.au/leaks)

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