



## IN THE HOME

IS026

Responsible Officer: EHO

Issue Date: 25/07/2011

Next Review Date: July 2016

Water is one of the most important natural resources on the earth. However, it is the one that is most often taken for granted.

Australia is the driest continent on earth. Yet given the way we use water, you would think there was an endless supply.

However, there is something that can be done to save water. All it takes is a little care and common sense around the home.

Please remember, not all townships on Yorke Peninsula are provided with a reticulated water scheme.

### How Much Water Do We Use In The Home?

An average tap flows at a rate of 20-30 litres per minute, depending on how far it's turned on. Apply this to how we use water in different rooms in the house (see below) and the figures are surprising.

#### In the bathroom

Brushing teeth.....	5 Litres
Shaving.....	8 Litres
Flushing Toilet .....	12 Litres
Shower .....	40-250 Litres
Bath .....	50-150 Litres

#### In the laundry

Washing machine .....	40-170 Litres
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#### In the kitchen

Drinking, cooking and cleaning .....	8 Litres
Dishwashing by hand .....	18 Litres
Dishwasher.....	20-50 Litres
Garbage Disposal Unit.....	30 Litres per day

\*Figures vary due to personal habits and design of household appliances.

## How to Conserve Water Inside Your House

How can we conserve water without affecting our lifestyle? It's easy – read on and just follow the simple tips in this information sheet.

### In the Bathroom

- Install a dual flush toilet. Modern toilets give the option to flush either half or all the cistern's water. Traditional toilets can usually be converted to dual flush.
- Take shorter showers. Limit showers to the time it takes to soap up, wash down, and rinse off. Remember that shorter showers also save on hot water costs.
- Install a water-saving shower rose. Many showers put out 20 litres of water per minute, however, 10 litres is enough for a refreshing, cleansing shower.
- There is no need to run water down the plughole while brushing your teeth. Just wet your brush and fill a glass for rinsing.
- Don't rinse your razor under a running tap. Fill the sink with a little warm water for rinsing. This is just as effective as running water and far less wasteful.

### In the Laundry

- Make sure the washing machine load adjustment is right for the load. If there's no load adjustment, wait until you have enough clothes for a full load. Washing machines use on average 40-170 litres of water per load; and money is wasted on electricity by running the machine more than is necessary.
- Front loading machines are generally more efficient than top loaders and save water and power. Also, use the sud-saver option when several loads have to be washed.

### In the Kitchen

- When washing dishes by hand, don't rinse them under a running tap. If you have two sinks, fill the second one with rinsing water. If you have only one sink, stack washed dishes in a dish rack and rinse them with a pan of hot water.
- Don't run the automatic dishwasher until you have a full load. This saves water and electricity.
- Don't let the tap run when cleaning vegetables. Just rinse them in a plugged sink or pan of clean water.
- Keep a bottle of drinking water in the refrigerator. Running the tap until the water is cool enough to drink is wasteful.
- Aerating taps are inexpensive and can reduce water flow by 50%.
- When cooking, use only a little water in the saucepan and keep the lid on.
- Garbage disposal units use about 30 litres of water per day and send a lot of extra rubbish into the sewers. This places an additional load on sewage systems. Perhaps some of your food scraps could be used in the garden.
- When buying a new appliance that uses water, be sure it has a high water conservation rating.

### Check for Leaks

- If you have a water meter, turn all taps off before you go to bed one night and take a meter reading. Check the meter the next morning before any water is used. If the meter reading had advanced, and no-one used any water during the night, you may have a leaking pipe, tap or toilet cistern. Locate the problem and repair it.
- A drip from a tap can waste 30-200 litres of water per day. Turn taps off properly and check washers for wear.
- A continuously running toilet can waste more than 16,000 litres of water per year. To check for leaks, put a little food colouring in the tank. If, without flushing, the colouring begins to appear in the bowl, the cistern should be repaired immediately.

## Hot Water Pipes and Systems

- Insulate hot water pipes. This avoids wasting water while waiting for hot water to flow through and saves power.
- Make sure your hot water system thermostat is not set too high. Adding cold water to cool hot water is wasteful.
- If you have a spa, ensure it is well insulated to keep water warm for longer. Reheating the water during the recirculation/spa process reduces water wastage.

## Further Information

The information contained in this information sheet was obtained from the following sources. These sources may be useful to gather further information regarding water conservation.

- <http://www.vicnet.net.au>

This website contains water conservation ideas – twenty ways to save water

- <http://www.watercorporation.com.au>

This website contains many water conservation ideas.

- <http://www.sawater.com.au>

Water website has a section identifying many ways to save water in the home and garden. Furthermore, this website provides information on the supply, reticulation and quality of South Australia's water supply.