

The Well

Water efficiency

With water used across South Australia for drinking, cooking, washing, farming, staying cool, watering gardens, recreation activities, industry, and much more, there are ways we can all use the water we have efficiently.

Bathroom

The simplest way to save water in your bathroom is to install a water-efficient shower head and toilet cistern.

Here are five more water saving tips:

- Take shorter showers. You can save up to 11 litres of water every minute by installing a water efficient shower head.
- Install a dual flush toilet. This can save you up to 50% on every flush.
- Check for a leaking toilet cistern. It's easy to do: just put food colouring in the cistern. If the colour shows in the toilet bowl without flushing, you've got a leak.
- Turn the taps off when you're brushing your teeth, washing your hands or shaving.
- Install aerators on your taps. Aerators mix air with your water. They reduce water flow without affecting pressure.

Kitchen

One of the best ways to save water in your kitchen is to install aerators. They reduce the water flow and stop you using so much water, but don't affect the pressure. You can also:

- Choose water-efficient appliances. Many new appliances have a Water Efficiency and Labelling Standards label to help you make a good choice.
- Only turn the dishwasher on when it's full. Make sure you use the right settings for different types of wash.
- Collect water in a bowl or jug whenever you need to run the taps, and use it on your garden. Do this when you're waiting for water to heat up or cool down. You can also do this when washing vegetables.
- Fix dripping taps. You can also read our leak detection guide to find out if you have a leak that you can't see.

Laundry

A good way to save water in the laundry is to install a water-efficient washing machine. Here are four extra water saving tips:

- Adjust settings to suit load. If you don't have a fully loaded washing machine, adjust the load setting to suit your washing requirements.
- Fix dripping taps. You can also read our leak detection guide to find out if you have a leak that you can't see.
- Install aerators on your taps. Aerators mix air with your water. They reduce water flow without affecting pressure.
- Consider using greywater from the laundry on the garden. Before you do this, make sure you can meet any required planning, health and plumbing requirements. Learn more about the requirements for greywater use.



Cooler living in your garden

Maintaining a healthy garden keep our homes cooler, reduce our energy bills, increase your property's financial value, and improve overall wellbeing.

By adopting water efficient techniques, essential in our dry South Australian climate, you can create, maintain and enjoy a green, healthy garden all year round.

- Plan your garden – place plants with similar water needs together, consider planting local species, set up an irrigation system to deliver the right amount of water to your
- Maintain your garden and remain water efficient – use mulch to prevent excessive evaporation, plant shade trees, watch the weather forecast and water ahead of extreme heat, keep your lawn green.
- Keep cool with water – a small amount of water can help keep your indoor and outdoor spaces cool in warmer weather. Flash water leafy canopies for 30–60 seconds to reduce the temperature in your garden, or install a misting system outside for a water efficient evaporative cooling effect.
- Install a rainwater tank for use in your garden or flushing toilets. For advice on the collection of rainwater for drinking purposes, check out SA Health's handy facts.

There are videos on our website with water efficiency tips for your garden.

Did you know?

- There is the same amount of water on Earth now as there was when dinosaurs walked the planet, but as our population grows, we use more and more water every year.
- South Australia is the driest state on the driest inhabited continent in the world, but Australians are among the highest water users in the world.
- A dripping tap can fill up to three buckets a day – that's 30 litres.
- One minute less in the shower a day could save over 4,000 litres of water a year.
- Old toilets might use more than 10 litres per full flush, but modern toilets can use as little as 4.5 litres for a full flush.

