

- Install a low flow showerhead – AAA rated showerheads use no more than nine litres of water per minute. Traditional showerheads use between 15 and 20 litres. Low flow showerheads can save 50 litres of water for a 6 minute shower.
- Turn on the shower when ready to get in
- Stepping out of the shower halfway through? - turn off the water until you get back in.
- Use a timer to help you spend less time in the shower – set it for 5 minutes or less
- Make sure your hot water system thermostat is not too high – You will be tempted to cool very hot water by adding cool water



Save Water In The Laundry

How often you use your washing machine is a big part of how much water your home uses or wastes. A top loader for example can use up to 200 litres of water per wash.

You can reduce the water you use by

- Only washing full loads – increasing the load size reduces the number of loads and reduces water wastage

- Does it really need washing? Break the habit of throwing things straight in the wash. Towels, for example, can be used more than once before washing.
- Choose a water-efficient washing machine. Look for the AAA water conservation rating label. Consider buying a front loader – they use about half the water a top loader does.
- Turn down the water setting – Doing a half-load?, adjust the water level or use economy settings
- Reduce the rinse cycle. In soft water, clothes not only get cleaner and but also require less detergent and rinse water
- Plug the sink in when you wash by hand.
- When washing clothes by hand, put the plug in and partly fill the sink with water rather than using running water.
- Rainwater is a good source of water for use on gardens

SAVING WATER IN YOUR HOME



Want more information?

For more information contact CODC Water Services on 03 440-0056 or water@codc.govt.nz



Limits To The Water Supply?

As we look at the Clutha rolling past, it seems hard to believe, New Zealand's freshwater supply is far from endless.

Varied rainfall, population growth, environmental capacity, regulatory limits on the water take and ability to treat the water to the required standards and quickly enough to meet demand, particularly in summer, all affect availability.

Saving Water Saves Money

As well as the social and environmental benefits of saving water, using water efficiently also saves money that would otherwise be spent building new dams, reservoirs and treatment plants.

What can I do to save water?

Everyone can do their bit to save water. It all adds up. The easiest way to save water is to fix leaks. Fixing a worn tap washer can save up to 5000 litres of water a month for only a few dollars.

The simple changes that we make to our behaviour when using water that are often the most effective.



Save Water In The Kitchen

Kitchen and Laundry water use accounts for 30% of household water use and much of it is wasted.

Reduce wastage by

- Using a water efficient dishwasher – Look for a AAA rating or one with economy settings for small loads
- Don't rinse dishes before loading. Most machines are designed to clean very dirty dishes. If you must rinse, soak briefly in soapy water and load without rinsing
- Wash full loads - Dishwashers can use up to 125 litres per wash. Wait until it's full before using it.
- Not cleaning properly? - check for clogged pumps, rotors or leaking hoses before switching to the heavy duty cycle
- Use vinegar to cut grease - add a little quarter to half a cup of vinegar to your wash water to help cut grease. This works better than using hot water alone

Cooking

- Keep drinking water in your fridge – not running the tap to get water cold saves up to two litres per glass
- Defrost food overnight in the fridge or thaw in the microwave instead of running water over it
- Put in the plug in when washing vegetables – Running the tap can waste 10 litres of water per minute. Instead, partly fill the sink and use much less water
- Save water and energy by microwaving, steaming or using a pressure cooker. Simmer, don't boil, and use tightly fitting lids to stop evaporation and save up to 20 litres a week.
- When boiling vegetables use just enough water to cover them.

Save Water In The Bathroom

Bathroom and toilet water use accounts for half the water used by most households. Toilets alone flush 25 percent of household water down the drain. An average single-flush toilet uses 11 litres per flush. A house with three occupants flushes 165 litres a day or two thirds of an Olympic size swimming pool in a year.

- Don't use the toilet to flush away rubbish such as tissues or other bits of rubbish. Remember, every full flush uses 11 litres of water
- Install a modern dual-flush adaptor and reduce water use by up to eight litres per flush
- Install flush saver device to reduce flush volume
- If you can't install a flush saver device, use a 1 or 1.5 litre plastic bottle filled with water. Don't use bricks as they can disintegrate and clog the tank. Be sure to place well clear of any moving parts.
- Check for slow leaks by adding a few drops of dye to the toilet cistern. Coloured water in the bowl shows the cistern needs to be repaired.
- Install tap aerators on the bathroom sink – These cut water flow by half without reducing pressure.
- Turning off the water when brushing teeth or shaving can save up to 56 litres of water a day
- Fill the sink to wash your face and hands – A running tap can waste up to 10 litres a minute
- Keep a nailbrush and pumice by the sink to wash dirt off – don't rely on water pressure
- Take shorter showers or only partly fill the bath -Showers are more water efficient than baths but only if they last for four minutes or less

