

Water-saving action plan

Set both short and long-term waste-reducing goals – tick the boxes that apply to you and start making changes today.

This week I will

- Start taking shorter showers.
- Only run the dishwasher when it has a full load.
- Use the bathroom basin when shaving or brushing teeth, instead of doing it in the shower.
- Contact a water authority to check requirements for using greywater on the garden.
- Check washing machine and dishwasher manuals to see if they have any special water-saving features.
- Take a water reading before going to bed and another first thing the next morning to determine any undetected leaks.
- Keep a bucket in the shower to collect cold water before the hot comes through. Then use on the garden.

This month I will

- Dig water-storing crystals into pot plants.
- Fit an aerator to the tap in the kitchen sink.
- Lay mulch on garden beds to reduce evaporation.
- Install water-efficient three-star-rated showerheads.
- Install soil moisture sensors in the garden so it only gets watered when required.

When I get the opportunity I will

- Install a greywater recycling system.
- Replace thirsty plants with drought-tolerant alternatives.
- Change the washers on dripping taps or call a plumber to fix more serious leaks.
- Install a rainwater tank or flexible rainwater bladder, which can fit under decking or under the floor in some houses.
- Buy water efficient appliances when old ones need replacing. Use the Water Rating label to check the model's consumption (go to www.waterrating.gov.au for details).