



# Saving water in and around your home

## Why save water?

Hunter Water estimates that each person in the Hunter uses around 200 litres of water per day.



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|---|--|
| 29% Showers<br>*WELS 4 star rated showers<br>save around 13,600 litres/year | 15% Washing Machine  |
| 22% Other<br>Bath, car, pool, dishwasher                                    | 10% Toilet<br>WELS 4 star rated toilets save<br>around 3,300 litres/year   |
| 20% Garden  | 4% Basins & Sinks<br>WELS 4 star rated taps save<br>around 1900litres/year |

For a more sustainable water future, our target is to reduce usage to 155L per person per day.

How many litres could you save with changes to your daily habits?

Source 2025 [www.hunterwater.com.au/water-and-environment/water-conservation/water-in-the-lower-hunter/how-much-water-do-we-need](http://www.hunterwater.com.au/water-and-environment/water-conservation/water-in-the-lower-hunter/how-much-water-do-we-need)



To find out how your families water usage compares to other households in the

Hunter, scan the QR code below to link to the Hunter Water usage calculator.

The calculator will provide a summary of your households water usage and provide tips on reducing your household water use.

# How much water do I use?

Toilet	11 litres per single flush 4.5/3 litres per dual flush
Bath	An average bath uses 110 litres
Shower	Older shower heads use 10 litres per minute Water efficient shower heads use 6 to 7 litres per minute
Dishwashing by hand	15 litres per wash
Washing machine	A front loader uses 65 litres per load A top loader uses 110 litres per load
Hand basin	4 litres per minute
Tap running while cleaning teeth	4 litres per minute
Watering the garden with a hose	15 litres per minute
Using a garden sprinkler	999 litres per hour
Washing the car with a hose	99 to 189 litres per day
Dripping tap	27 to 198 litres per day
Leaking pipe	99 litres per day from a 1.5mm hole
Average Dishwasher	12 litres per load

Source: Sydney Water

## Saving water in your home

### In the kitchen

- ✓ When choosing appliances, look for a higher WELS rating.
- ✓ Use a plugged sink to wash fruit and vegetables rather than a running tap.
- ✓ Make sure the dishwasher is full each time it is used, or choose an appropriate half-load setting.
- ✓ Keep a container by the sink to catch water as it reaches your desired temperature. Use this water on the garden.
- ✓ Place a jug of water in the fridge to reduce the amount of water wasted as you wait for the tap water to go cold each time you want a cool drink.
- ✓ Cook vegetables in the microwave rather than over the stovetop in a pot of water as microwaving only needs a small amount of water.

### In the bathroom and laundry

- ✓ Install a low flow shower head and take shorter showers. Hunter Water recommends a four minute shower. Check out their four minute Spotify play lists to help stick to time.
- ✓ Do not leave the tap running when cleaning your teeth or shaving.
- ✓ Install a dual flush toilet and use the half flush option when appropriate.
- ✓ Only fill the bath with as much as you need.
- ✓ Set the load adjuster on your washing machine when you do not have a full load to wash.
- ✓ When replacing the washing machine consider the WELS rating, and purchasing a front load machine which uses less water than a top loading machine.

### In the garden and backyard

- ✓ Install tap timers and drip irrigation equipment to prevent the over watering of plants.
- ✓ Water gardens in the early morning or late evening to reduce the evaporation of water from garden beds.
- ✓ Water the root zone rather than the leaves of plants.
- ✓ Use mulch on your garden to prevent evaporation of water from the soil. This will also prevent the growth of weeds which would otherwise compete with plants for water resources.
- ✓ When choosing plants, look for “low-water” or “drought-tolerant” species, especially natives, suited to the local climate.
- ✓ Improving the health of your soil with compost will help it to retain moisture.
- ✓ Wash your car/boat/caravan on the grass and with a bucket rather than with a hose.
- ✓ To reduce the evaporation of water from pools use a pool cover.
- ✓ Install a water tank to allow for the collection of rainwater for use on your garden.
- ✓ Sweep rather than hosing pathways clean.



**Repair leaking taps as soon as they are identified.**

**Install flow restrictors to taps to reduce the flow rate of water.**

**Insulate hot water taps so that they deliver hot water to you quickly.**

