



# Water Saving Tips

## Inside - Bathroom

- Taking shorter showers is one of the simplest ways to save water.
- Use a shower timer to help you cut down your shower time.
- Install a 3-star rated shower head.
- Turn off the shower while you shampoo and condition your hair.
- Use a bucket to collect shower water while you wait for hot water to arrive – use the water collected for cleaning, window washing or in the garden.
- Turn off the tap while you're brushing your teeth.
- Don't shave with the water running; run a little water in the sink and rinse your razor in that.



## Toilet

- Use the half-flush whenever you can.
- Install a dual flush system or a water-saving device so your toilet only flushes for as long as you hold down the button.
- Check for a leaking toilet by putting food colouring in the cistern, if the colour starts flowing into the bowl you know you have a leak. (Flush straight after this test so that you don't stain the bowl.)
- Don't flush unless you need to.
- Dispose of tissues or other rubbish in the bin, not the toilet.



## Inside - Laundry

- Only use your washing machine if you have a full load.
- If you must do a half load of washing, adjust the water level to suit.
- Consider purchasing a 4-star rated washing machine. This uses about two thirds less water than a traditional top loader. Check [www.waterrating.gov.au](http://www.waterrating.gov.au) to see how your appliances rate.
- Use the 'sud-saver' option (if you have it) when doing more than one load.
- Use biodegradable eco-friendly detergent for improved greywater for your garden.
- When washing clothes by hand, only run as much water as needed into the sink.
- Pre-treat stains to reduce the need to re-wash clothes.





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## Inside - Kitchen

- Only use your dishwasher when it is fully loaded and use the economy setting.
- Try to keep a bottle of drinking water in the fridge rather than running the tap until it's cold enough to drink.
- Wipe rather than rinse dishes before putting them in the dishwasher.
- Don't use running water to defrost your frozen food.
- When washing up by hand, don't rinse dishes under running water. Use the second sink, or a bucket.
- Soak pots and pans, don't scrape under running water.
- Wash fruit and vegetables in a bowl rather than under running water.
- Try composting instead of using garbage disposal units. Your garden will benefit and will use less water.



## Inside - General

- Always look for appliances rated 3 stars or higher (for rating info visit [www.waterrating.gov.au](http://www.waterrating.gov.au)).
- Flow controlled regulators and aerators on taps will cut flow by up to 50%.
- Ensure sink plugs throughout your house don't leak.
- Insulate hot water pipes to reduce warm-up time and save water and electricity.
- If you have high water pressure, a plumber can install a pressure reduction valve at your property boundary.



## Outside - Vehicles and paths

- Many commercial carwashes use high pressure, low volume equipment to minimise use of water and recycle their water. So, visit your local carwash.
- If you need to wash your car at home, use warm-up water from your shower or try a waterless carwash product.
- Sweep driveways and other hard surfaces with a stiff bristle broom.



## Outside - Pets

- Use a shallow bath to wash pets.
- Call in the experts - Pet groomers have equipment to wash pets using very little water.
- Keep pets away from areas you have watered with greywater.



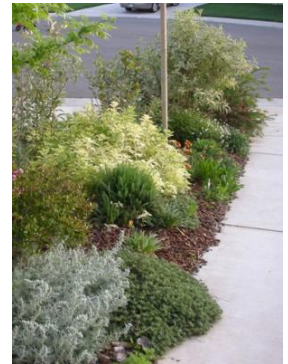


# Water Saving Tips

## Garden Tips

It is possible to keep a healthy garden during a drought. Here are a few tips to get you started:

- Choose drought tolerant plants. Remember, these plants will only become drought tolerant once they have a well-established root system, so they will require a little more watering for the first few months.
- Install a drip irrigation system.
- Use mulch on your garden to reduce evaporation, reduce weed growth and reduce water runoff when it rains. 75mm is an ideal mulch depth.
- Use greywater from your bathroom and laundry.
- Use a staged approach to planting. Either plant one section of the garden at a time or start with structural plants like trees and shrubs to establish shelter and reduce evaporation, then add smaller plants later.
- Use a compost bin. Compost helps soil retain water and is packed full of nutrients that will give your garden the extra boost it needs.
- Fertilising can help your plants stay healthy, visit your local nursery to find out what's best for your plants.
- After fertilising the garden, make sure you water in the fertiliser. Be careful not to over water as runoff will occur and the fertiliser will be pushed away from the plants. In soils that contain high percentages of loams and sand or are very high in organics be careful not to push the water nutrient past the effective root zone of the plant.
- If you mow the lawn, cut the grass much longer in the warmer months to reduce evaporation – put your lawn clippings in the compost bin, or consider buying a mulching mower so you can leave the clippings on the lawn to act as a mulch and reduce evaporation.
- Use wetting agents to enable soil to absorb water more readily.
- Think small – you can still have a beautiful garden; just keep everything to a smaller scale to reduce overall water consumption.



## Invest in a trigger nozzle

- A trigger nozzle means you can effectively direct water to where it is needed.
- A trigger nozzle can be easily attached to your hand-held hose, but make sure you have a good quality fitting. Visit your local nursery hardware or irrigation store for advice.



## Invest in a greener wand

The greener wand is an implement for providing a method of easily and efficiently watering garden plants by delivering water directly to the roots of the plants in a controlled fashion. The wand can direct the water accurately and easily to the roots in a manner to suit individual plant needs for water quantity and root sensitivity. This saves time to carry out the watering and saves substantially on the amount of water used compared to conventional watering methods such as sprinklers and hand held hosing





# Water Saving Tips

## The most effective way to water

- Most gardens and lawns have adapted to the drought conditions and need only a little watering. Experts recommend that you water your plants using an efficient method known as cyclic watering. Cyclic watering keeps your garden healthy with minimal water usage. Cyclic watering does not cause excessive pooling or runoff, and helps water better penetrate the soil.
- The principles of cyclic watering can be applied to all watering methods, including drip irrigation and hand watering.
- Water a designated area until pooling and runoff begins, and then turn the water off.
- Leave the area for half an hour to an hour to allow the water to soak into the soil.
- Water the area again until pooling and runoff begins, and then turn the water off.
- Again, leave the area for half an hour to an hour to allow the water to soak into the soil.
- In between watering cycles, dig around to see if the water is reaching the root zones. Then you will know how many times you should repeat the cyclic watering process to let the water reach areas where it is needed. You can then program your drip irrigation system accordingly.
- Continue steps 1-5 throughout the watering time permitted by the relevant restriction stage to maximise the benefit of watering while minimising water usage. You should only need to water each area once or twice a week, depending on the weather.



## Ask an expert

- If you are starting a new garden or considering a complete overhaul of your existing garden, visit your local nursery; call a garden or lawn care expert.

## How to water during restrictions - residential

- **Make sure you're aware of water restrictions before you use any hoses, sprinklers etc.**
- If you have any queries regarding the level of water restrictions currently in place in **Casino** please contact Council's General Enquiries number **Ph (02) 6660 0300**.
- If you have any queries regarding the level of water restrictions currently in place in the **Lower River** towns of Coraki, Evans Head, Broadwater, Riley's Hill or Woodburn please contact Rous Water on the water restrictions hotline freecall **1800 450 203**.
- Even when restrictions are in place, there are many opportunities to water your garden without breaking the rules. The usual Level One restrictions in the Richmond Valley area are for sprinklers and fixed hoses not to be used between the hours of 8 am and 4 pm. This is the hottest time of day, and any watering during this time would be a waste of time as the water would soon evaporate.
- And remember; only water your garden when you need to. Once a week is often enough so don't just water because you can. And if it rains, don't double up by watering as well.

# Water Saving Tips

## Outside - Swimming pools and ponds

- A swimming pool may seem hard to maintain when water is scarce. But don't pack away the pool toys just yet! Here are some handy hints that will let you and your family continue to enjoy your pool while saving water.
- For further information on how to keep your pool in good condition call your local pool maintenance expert.
- Make sure you're aware of water restrictions before you decide to build, fill, empty or top up swimming pools and ponds. Contact council on 02-6660 0300 for enquiries or call into council offices at Cnr Graham Place & Walker Street CASINO or Cnr Woodburn Street & School Lane EVANS HEAD.



### How to use less

- Regularly check your pool for leaks.
- The water level should be halfway up the skimmer opening for maximum water efficiency. Clean out your skimmer often.
- Only backwash until the water is clear in the sight glass or at the drain point – one or two minutes at the most.
- In summer, it's best to run your pool filter eight to ten hours a day - especially when people are in the pool.
- If you have a rainwater tank use the rainwater to top up your pool.
- Ensure your pool's quality is maintained all year 'round.

### Cover Up

- A pool cover is an absolute necessity. A cover will prevent evaporation, which means fewer top-ups. You'll also save money on pool chemicals.

