



## Be water wise – water saving tips

- Never put water down the drain when there may be another use for it such as watering a plant or garden, or cleaning.
- Install a grey water recycling system to reuse shower, bath and washing machine water.
- Install rain water tanks to collect the rain falling on your roof.
- Verify that your home/business is leak-free, because many buildings have hidden water leaks. Read your water meter before and after a two-hour period when no water is being used. If the meter does not read exactly the same, there is a leak.
- Repair dripping taps by replacing washers.
- Check for toilet cistern leaks by adding food colouring to the cistern. If the toilet is leaking, colour will appear within 30 minutes. Check the toilet for worn out, corroded or bent parts. Most replacement parts are inexpensive, readily available and easily installed. Flush as soon as test is done, since food colouring may stain the tank.
- Put a brick/full plastic drink container in the toilet cistern to reduce the amount of water needed to fill it up.
- Avoid flushing the toilet unnecessarily, and install a dual-flush system. Dispose of tissues, insects and other such waste in the dustbin rather than the toilet.
- Take shorter showers - wet your body, turn off the shower and wash, then rinse. Replace your showerhead with an ultra-low-flow version.
- Use the minimum amount of water needed for a bath.
- Only fill the kettle with the amount of water you need. This will reduce electricity costs too.
- Don't let water run while brushing your teeth, shaving or washing your face.
- Install aerators with flow restrictors in all your taps.
- Operate automatic dishwashers and washing machines only when they are fully loaded, or set the water level for the size of load you are using.
- When washing dishes by hand, fill one sink with soapy water. Fill a plastic basin in the other sink and rinse the dishes in that water. Use the rinse water to water your plants.
- Store drinking water in the fridge rather than letting the tap run every time you want a cool glass of water.
- Do not use running water to thaw meat or other frozen foods. Defrost food overnight in the fridge or use the defrost setting on your microwave.
- Kitchen sink disposals require lots of water to operate properly. Start a compost pile as an alternate method of disposing food waste instead of using a kitchen sink disposal.
- Consider installing an instant water heater on your kitchen sink so you don't have to let the water run until hot water gets to the tap. This will reduce heating costs for your household.
- Insulate your hot water pipes. You'll get hot water faster and avoid wasting water.
- Install water softening systems only when necessary. Save water and salt by running the minimum amount of regenerations necessary to maintain water softness. Turn softeners off while on holiday.
- Check your pump. If you have a borehole, listen to see if the pump kicks on and off while the water is not in use. If it does, you have a leak.

*Life is water – Water is life*