

Water Saving Tips

Garden/ Outside

- **Water gardens in the early evening or morning to reduce evaporation.**
- **Don't leave hoses running**– a running hose can waste up to 400 litres per hour.
- **Check for leaks from hoses and taps.**
- **Wash your car on the grass and give the lawn a water too.**
- **Mulch your gardens**, mulch reduces the water that evaporates by up to 70%. One fifth of homes water goes into the garden so a little mulch could stop your home wasting a lot of water.



Produced in the
interest of better understanding
by the
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**A GUIDE
to**



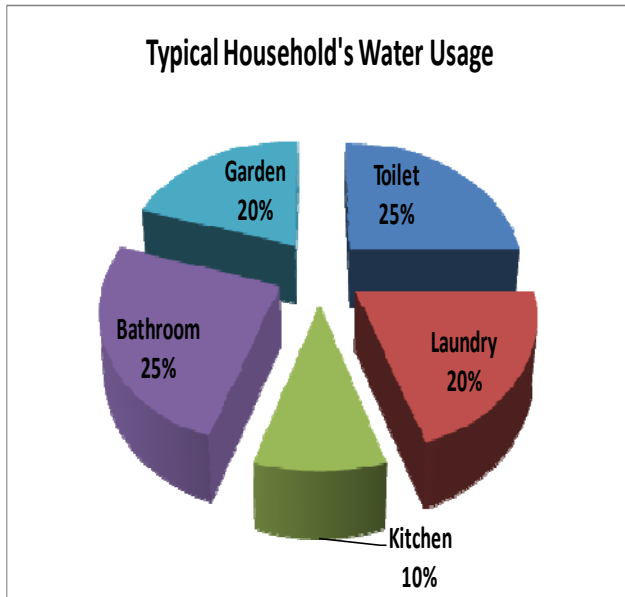
Saving Water

**Ruapehu
District Council**

Why Save Water

Water is a precious resource, it is fundamental to New Zealand's way of life. Our rivers, lakes, streams, groundwater systems and wetlands are among our most valuable assets. We may not have a water shortage in the Ruapehu District but there are significant costs in sourcing, treating and piping the water to our homes and businesses. If we all reduce our water usage by even the smallest amount it can save money. This will mean less water to be treated and transported and less wastewater to be treated.

- **Only 3% of the water that is used in households is for drinking**, the other 97% goes down the drain.



Saving water does not have to be a major task, incorporating small changes into our everyday lives can make a huge difference.

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Taps

- **Fix dripping taps.** You can save up to 100 litres a day (that's up to 36,500 litres of water a year) just by replacing a washer.
- **A running tap can send 14 litres of water down the drain every minute.**



Bathroom

- **Turn off the tap while you shave or brush your teeth.** By turning the tap off you could save over 10,000 litres per person per year.
- **Take shorter showers.** An average shower head with mains pressure uses at least 12 litres of water per minute. If you have an 8 minute shower that is 96 litres per day or 35,040 litres per year.
- **Have showers instead of baths**, the average bath uses over 150 litres.



Toilet

- **A leaking toilet wastes litres of water everyday.** Check for leaks by putting a few drops of food dye into the cistern. If you have a leak coloured water will appear in the bowl before the toilet has been flushed. If you have a leak either adjust the water level in the cistern or you may have to get it repaired.
- **Use dual flush toilets or use a flush control device**, such as a gizmo, it will save significant amounts of water on most types of toilet cistern. It can save up to 30,000 litres per year. If you can't install a gizmo a brick or zip-lock plastic bag filled with water can be placed in the cistern to reduce the amount of water used for each flush.



Water Saving Tips

Kitchen

- **Use the economy setting for small loads in your dishwasher**, if your dishwasher does not have an economy setting only do full loads.
- **Only use small amounts of dishwashing detergent** (when washing dishes by hand) as this will reduce the amount of rinsing required.
- **Keep a container of drinking water in the fridge**, instead of running the tap until the water is cold.
- **For rinsing dishes or washing fruit and vegetables etc, half-fill your sink with water rather than leaving the tap running.**



Laundry

- **Only do full loads of washing** and always use economy settings, each time you do a load of washing. In a top loading machine you use an average of 200 litres of water.
- **Save your washing machine rinse water** (grey water) to use to water your plants.
- **Save water by reducing the rinse cycle.**
- **Use laundry detergents with low phosphorus**, As phosphorus causes excessive plant growth and algae blooms.

