

Garden

- Check hose and sprinkler restrictions with Council in dry periods.
- Only water when really necessary - not just by habit.
- Water morning or evening to reduce loss by evaporation.
- Don't leave a hose running.
- Deep soak plants - a few good waters are better than lots of light sprinkling.
- Use the household grey water on the garden.
- Mulch your garden - it conserves soil water and has other benefits too.
- Choose plants that suit climate and soil conditions to reduce watering.
- Wash your car on the grass and give the lawn a water too.
- Check for leaks from hoses and taps.
- Capture rainwater from your roof to water your garden or install a rainwater tank.
- Use a broom to clean driveways and walkways instead of a hose.



Did you know?

- An average shower head with mains pressure uses 12 litres of water per minute. If you have an eight minute shower, that is 96 litres per day or 35,040 litres per year!
- The average bath takes 150 litres of water.
- Leaving your garden hose running can waste up to 400 litres of water per hour!
- You can save up to 100 litres of water per day (or 36,500 litres/year) just by replacing a washer and stopping your tap dripping.
- A rainwater collection tank can provide up to 20% of a household's outdoor water use.
- A front loading washing machine uses around 50% less water than a top loader.

A Guide to

Saving Water



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The information in this brochure is a guide only and is not a statutory document

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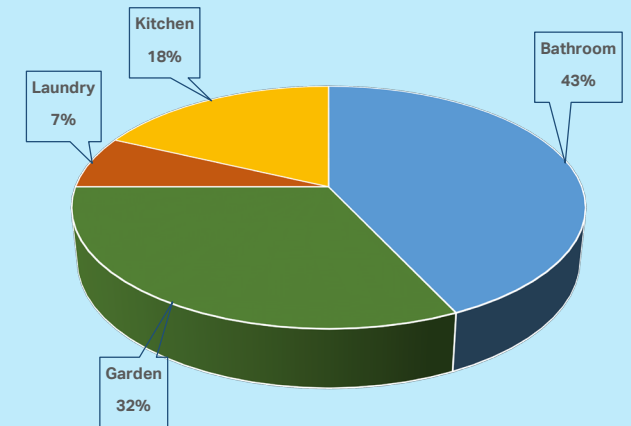
Why save water?

Water is a precious resource. It is fundamental to New Zealand's way of life. The rivers, lakes, streams, groundwater systems and wetlands in the spectacular Ruapehu District are among our most valuable assets and more emphasis is being given to preserving the natural character of our environment by taking as little water as possible from our waterways. Our rivers are healthier with more water in them and this encourages the ecosystems, which our waterways support, to thrive.

There are also significant costs to our community in sourcing, treating and piping the water in our homes and businesses. If we all reduce our water usage by even the smallest amount, it can save money.

- 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.

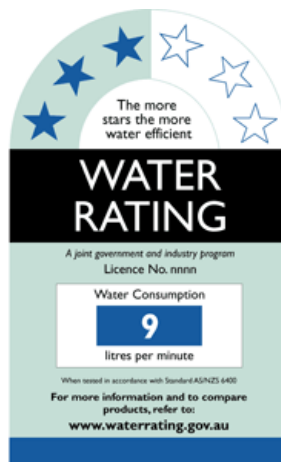
Typical Household's Water Usage



Water Saving Tips

Laundry

- Use your washing machine only for full loads.
- Use the half water cycle if appropriate.
- When looking for a new washing machine, consider its water usage.
- Check all taps, pipes, connections for leaks.
- Check your hot water supply tank and hot water cylinder breather pipe for overflowing.
- Save your washing machine rinse water (grey water) to use to water your plants.



Kitchen

- Don't run the tap when cleaning vegetables – use a bowl or put the plug in.
- Use your dishwasher for full loads only, and use the economy setting whenever possible.
- If buying a dishwasher, consider its water consumption.
- Remember sink waste disposal units encourage more water use.
- Check all taps, pipes and connections for leaks.
- Only use small amounts of low phosphorus 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.



Bathroom/Toilet

- Take shorter showers.
- If you must bath, don't overfill it (turn off the tap while brushing your teeth).
- Check your cistern, taps and pipes for leaks and overflow.
- Install a dual-flush toilet cistern or place a brick in the cistern, or adjust the float valve to reduce the amount of water used for each flush.
- Consider installing a low flow shower head, which uses less water.

