



# SAVING WATER

## Water is a taonga – use it wisely

Our community relies on water from our rivers. When it is dry for a long time, the water supply network comes under stress. Streams and creeks dry up, groundwater levels fall, pipeline breakages increase, and back-up pumping systems and treatment plants work much harder. At the same time, water demand increases. When the demand for water is higher than the available supplies, we need to bring in water restrictions.

Water restrictions	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3
Watering private gardens and lawns with a watering can or bucket	Permitted at all times.	Permitted at all times.	Permitted at all times.
Watering private gardens and lawns with a hand-held hose	Permitted at all times.	Allowed between 8pm and 8am.	Not permitted.
Watering private gardens and lawns with a sprinkler	Allowed between 8pm and 8am.	Allowed between 8pm and 8am.	Not permitted.
Irrigating commercial nurseries, sportsfields, public lawns and gardens	Allowed between 8pm and 8am.	Allowed between 8pm and 8am.	Irrigation system not permitted. Hand-held hose only.
Filling ponds	Hand-held hose filling allowed between 8pm and 8am.	Hand-held hose filling allowed between 8pm and 8am.	Hand-held hose filling allowed between 8pm and 8am.
Using public and private fountains	Private fountains must be turned off. Public fountains that re-circulate water may be used and can be topped up between 8pm and 8am.	Private fountains must be turned off. Public fountains that re-circulate water may be used and can be topped up between 8pm and 8am.	Not permitted.
Filling private swimming pools	Hand-held hose filling allowed between 8pm and 8am.	Hand-held hose filling allowed between 8pm and 8am.	Not permitted.
Filling public and commercial swimming pools	Permitted at all times.	Permitted at all times.	Topping up allowed between 8pm and 8am.
Washing private cars	Allowed between 8pm and 8am with hand-held hose or bucket. Wash on self-draining surface.	Allowed between 8pm and 8am with hand-held hose or bucket. Wash on self-draining surface.	Bucket cleaning only.
Washing cars at commercial car washes and car sales yards	Permitted at all times.	Permitted at all times.	Allowed between 8pm and 8am. Wash on self-draining surface.
Water-blasting or washing windows, roof, paths, boats, etc	Allowed between 8pm and 8am.*	Allowed between 8pm and 8am.* Bucket cleaning only.	Not permitted.*
*Allowed if related to health, fire or accident. Roof gutters may be cleaned any time.			

## Easy ways to save water. Every drop counts.

### Outdoors

- Water your garden by hand in the early morning or late evening. Using a trigger hose or watering can is best. A garden sprinkler uses over 1000 litres of water per hour.
- Soak the garden every few days. Light watering makes plants shallow-rooted and most of the water is lost through evaporation.
- Adjust your lawn mower to cut at 40-50mm. Taller grass holds soil moisture better.
- Leave lawn clippings on your grass and mulch around plants to retain moisture. This also helps keep the weeds at bay!
- Consider harvesting rainwater or saving grey water from your bath and laundry for garden use.
- Check your sprinkler and hose for leaks.
- Wash your car from a bucket rather than hosing. Washing your car with running water can use up to 400 litres.

### Indoors

- Have a shorter shower or cut down the amount of water for your bath. Each minute in the shower uses about 14 litres of water and filling a bathtub takes about 300 litres.
- Turn off the tap when you are brushing your teeth or shaving.
- Set your washing machine to the proper load size. Around 20% of indoor water use comes from doing laundry.
- Keep an eye on your taps for leaks. A dripping tap uses 100 litres a day.
- Cook food in as little water as possible. This also helps retain nutrients.
- Use a small bowl rather than a full sink or running water to wash vegetables.
- Defrost food in the fridge rather than using running water.
- Recycle old water from pet bowls, kettles, etc, to water plants.

### Planning for the future

- Choose plants that don't need too much water.
- Look for the AAA Water Conservation rating if you are buying new appliances.
- Consider installing aerated tap mixers and a water-saving showerhead.
- Consider installing a dual-flush toilet cistern or place a weight in the cistern to reduce capacity.