



# Water audit

## FOR YOUR HOUSEHOLD

Australia is the driest inhabited continent and has a limited amount of freshwater. Rainfall is highly variable. Of the average rainfall for the continent (469mm/year) only 12% on average runs off land to collect in rivers and dams.

This simple audit is designed to help you work out approximately how much water you use and where in your household you use most of it.

By reducing the amount of water used in your household, you will be helping the environment, saving yourself money as well as helping conserve our valuable water resource.

At the end of this audit are some suggestions on how you can reduce your water consumption.

WATER USE		No. of persons in household (A)	No. of uses per week (B)	Litres of water per use (C)	Total water usage per week (AxBxC)
BATHROOM	Toilet				
	Shower				
	Bath				
	Cleaning teeth				
	Shaving				
	Washing hands				
CLEAN	Inside cleaning (showers, floors)				
KITCHEN	Washing dishes				
	Dishwasher				
	Drinking				
	Cooking/food prep				
LDY	Washing machine				
OUTDOORS	Washing cars/bikes/boats				
	Washing pets				
	Watering gardens/lawns				
	Outside cleaning (driveway, balconies)				
	Pool/spa/water features				
LKs	Dripping taps/leaks				
	Other				
TOTAL CONSUMPTION					/L/week



# Water audit VOLUME GUIDE

To work out the volume of water used in your water audit, here is a guide. The figures are calculated on averages. For exact figures use a 'Flow Measuring Jug' for taps or your user manual for appliances.

WATER USE	DESCRIPTION	LITRES OF WATER USED
BATHROOM	Toilet	full flush (old) full flush (dual) half flush (dual)
	Shower	water-saving rose head older-style rose head
	Bath	quarter full half full full
	Cleaning teeth	tap running with a cup
	Shaving	tap running with a cup
	Washing hands	with water running
	Cleaning showers	with shower running with a bucket
KITCHEN	Washing dishes	by hand
	Dishwasher	dishwasher (5 star WELs rated) older dishwasher
	Drinking	10 glasses
LAUNDRY	Washing machine	front loader (4 star WELs rated) top loader (4 star WELs rated) older machine
OUTDOORS	Washing outdoors including pets/cars/bikes/boats/ furniture/driveways, etc	using a running hose using a bucket
	Watering gardens	with a hose with a sprinkler
	Pool/spa/water features	topping up
LEAKS	Dripping taps/leaks	slow-dripping tap leak toilet cistern leak  pool/spa small leak

## GOOD HABITS

Some tips to save water around the home:

- **Take shorter showers.** Showers use up to 10 to 20 Litres per minute. If you want a soak, a partially filled bath uses less water than long showers.
- **Maintain the plumbing in your home.** Fixing leaks saves huge amounts of water. If you have leaking taps you can by special kits at your local hardware store to fix. Otherwise you may need to call your local plumber.
- **Use a plug.** Running taps use water quickly! When rinsing vegetables or dishes, put a plug in the sink. While brushing your teeth always make sure to have your tap turned off.
- **Check your hot water system.** Hot water uses on average 45% of energy consumed in the household and up to 30% of water used in the household. Reducing energy needed to heat water saves money and water. Ask your local plumber to check how efficiently your hot water system is running; better still invest in a solar hot water system.
- **Tuning your toilet.** Toilets use up to 30% of the water use in a house. It is important to keep your toilet well maintained, regardless of the size of the cistern. Toilet leaks are often silent and can waste up to 15,000 litres a year. If your toilet leaks call your local plumber to have it fixed.