

Outdoors

- Use mulch to minimise evaporation. Mulch helps the soil retain moisture, inhibits weed growth and prevents erosion.

- Water gardens in the early morning or late evening to minimise evaporation.



Rainwater tanks

- Install a rainwater tank or a barrel. Using rainwater can reduce your water bills, as rainwater is free!

- A rainwater tank can be a useful water source for watering the garden or washing the car.

Washing the car

- Wash using a bucket and rinse off with the hose. Wash your car on your lawn if possible to avoid detergent and other residues from entering the stormwater system network.

Alternatively, wash your car at a car-wash centre who recycles their water or whose drains are connected to the wastewater network.



General

- Check for leaking pipes. Turn off all of the property's taps and check to see if the water meter is still turning; if it is you probably have a leaking pipe. Call a plumber to fix the leak as a leaking pipe can waste over 400 litres an hour (that's over 3,500,000 litres of water a year).



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 worn washer.

- Make sure your hot water system thermostat is not set too high, 61° C is typically at the best setting. Adding cold water to cool very hot water is wasteful.

- Aerated taps are inexpensive and can reduce water flow by 50%.

- A running tap can send 14 litres of water down the drain every minute.

For further water saving tips please visit our website

www.chbdc.govt.nz/water

**or e-mail
info@chbdc.govt.nz**



Water Saving Tips

If every person in Central Hawke's Bay uses less water everyone will win!



By reducing how much water you use you will save money on your water bill and the community will save on water production costs such as treatment plants, pumps, pipes and reservoirs.

Kitchen

- If your Dishwasher does not have an economy setting, only do full loads. Each time you use a dishwasher you use on average 40 litres of water, or 14,000 litres a year.



- For rinsing dishes or washing fruit and vegetables etc, half-fill your sink with water rather than leaving the tap running.

- For cold drinking water keep a container of chilled water in the fridge, rather than running the cold water tap until the water is cold.

- Garbage disposal units use about 30 litres of water per day and send a lot of extra rubbish into the sewers.



Use a compost pile or worm farm for food scraps rather than a waste disposal unit.

Bathroom

- A water efficient/low flow shower head can reduce your water usage to between 5 and 7 litres per minute. They can cost as little as \$50 and can save up to 50 litres of water per shower, or up to 20,000 litres of water per person per year. An efficient shower will also reduce your power bill, as you use less hot water.



An average shower head with mains pressure uses at least 12 litres of water per minute, 96 litres per day or 35,000 litres per year.

- Turn the tap off when you're brushing your teeth or shaving.



- If you brush your teeth twice a day and leave the tap running, you waste approx. 56 litres per day - that's over 20,000 litres a year per person.

Toilet

- The average single flush toilet uses 11 litres per full flush. A household with 3 occupants flushes on average 15 times per day, which is 165 litres per day or over 60,000 litres per year.



It is common for toilet cisterns to leak or overflow. They can waste a considerable amount of water each day.

- 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. You may have to get it repaired or adjust the water level in the cistern.

- Check your toilet and hot water overflow pipes are not leaking.

- Modern dual flush toilets use only 3 or 6 litres of water per flush. This is 30% less than older dual flush cisterns and up to 8 litres less than single flush toilets.

Laundry

- When buying a new washing machine, choose one that is water efficient. Front loaders use about half the water that top loaders use.

Look out for the Water Rating label - the more stars, the more water efficient it is.



- Ensure you have a full load of washing - each time you use your top loader machine you use 200 litres of water, on average.



If you don't have a full load, adjust the water level or use economy settings to suit the size of your wash load.

- Save your 'grey water' from your washing machine rinse and use it to water the garden. Ask a plumber for advice.