

# Saving Water Outside the Home

The amount of water used in Hawke's Bay increases hugely over a dry summer as people water gardens. If you have a garden, it could be your largest water user. Follow these simple water saving actions and stop pouring water down the drain!

## Sensible Garden Watering

• Giving your lawn a good slow soak once or twice a week will encourage deeper root growth and greater drought tolerance.

• Water the plant roots, not the driveway or pavements!

• Avoid watering during the day. Water that goes on the ground is lost through evaporation during hot summer days.



• Compost is a great way to store water in the ground where your plants need it. The compost provides a barrier to evaporation which helps retain moisture in the ground.

• The average sprinkler pumps out the equivalent of 20mm rainfall per hour. However the soils in Hastings and Havelock North can only absorb 5 - 13mm/hour. Turn down that sprinkler to ensure water doesn't run down the drain.

• Sprinklers use thousands of litres of water per hour. Use soaker hoses or trickle irrigation systems set up on a timer to provide the greatest efficiency.

Compared to many countries New Zealand has lots of clean water and as a result we tend to waste a lot of it. There is a lack of concern towards saving water especially in areas of high rainfall. Hawke's Bay has experienced some incredibly dry summers over recent years which has put pressure on this valuable resource.

• During summer cut your grass often and leave the grass longer, at least 65 to 70mm. This will prevent burn off, and cutting often will reduce moisture loss through the leaves.

• Plant according to where the sun shines and choose climate appropriate plants. Consider placing high water demand plants in shady areas or in pots that can be moved out of the hot sun. Plant native plants as these are known to use less water.

• Wash your car or boat on the lawn. This also keeps the detergents out of the stormwater system which ends up directly in our streams and rivers.



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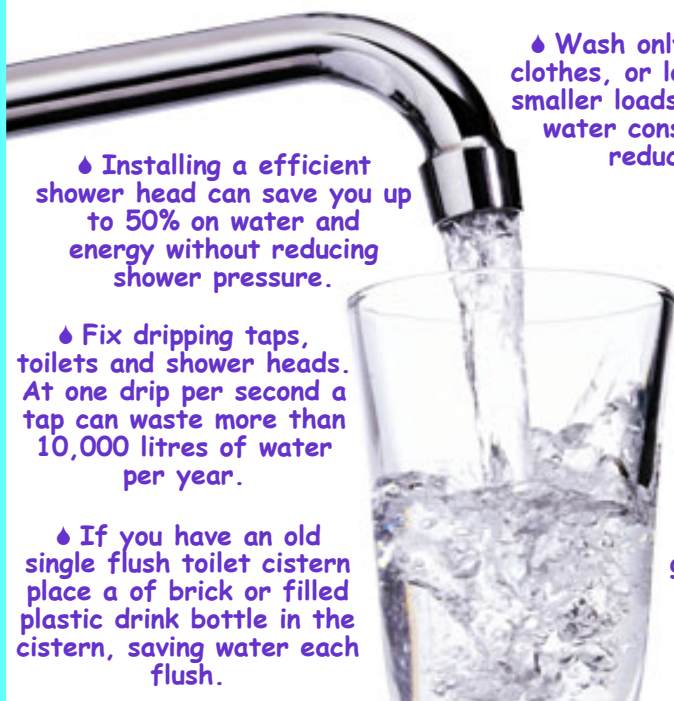


Sustaining  
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# Simple Water Savings Tips

We all enjoy and rely on cheap and easy access to clean, fresh water. We often take our water supply for granted, unnecessarily wasting large amounts of it. The pumping and treatment of wastewater comes at a cost to you and the environment. Hawke's Bay has been facing serious water shortages during recent droughts. By making easy changes to your behaviour you can do your part to conserve this precious resource.

The average New Zealander uses over 300 litres of water per day. Most of us have no idea how much water we use or where it goes after we turn on the tap.



◆ Installing a efficient shower head can save you up to 50% on water and energy without reducing shower pressure.

◆ Fix dripping taps, toilets and shower heads. At one drip per second a tap can waste more than 10,000 litres of water per year.

◆ If you have an old single flush toilet cistern place a of brick or filled plastic drink bottle in the cistern, saving water each flush.

◆ Wash only full loads of dishes and clothes, or lower the water setting for smaller loads. Not only will this reduce water consumption, but it will also reduce your energy use.

◆ A full bath tub can take up to 100 - 250 litres, while a 5 minute shower uses 35 - 50 litres. Your teenager may need an egg timer to keep within 5 minutes!

◆ Composting can be fun and provides a valuable nutrient source for your garden. Try recycling your garden waste before rinsing it down the drain or garbage disposal unit.

Saving water around the home is simple and smart. For example, by turning off the tap while brushing your teeth, a family can save around 7,000 litres of water a year!

For more information on sus'd, contact Hastings District Council on 0508 NO WASTE (0508-669-2783) or visit [www.susd.org.nz](http://www.susd.org.nz)

