



## Tips on How to Save Water

*Save money and look after the environment by installing and using water saving products used in and around the home.*

### Tips for a Water Wise Garden

- Water – Learn about your plants water needs and only water when necessary.
- Mulch – Keep soil cool and reduce evaporation by up to 70%. Spread mulch at least 7cm deep around plants.
- Weeds – Weeds compete with plants for water.
- Add Soil Wetting Agents – Water crystals and soil-wetting agents will retain moisture and help nourish your plants during the dry season.
- Fertilise – Regularly feed your plants to ensure they are healthy.
- Plants – Only absorb water in their root zone, so watering for long periods is wasting water.
- Lawn – Try reducing your watering for 15 minutes, your plants will still thrive and you will save water.
- Lawn – Put a small sized tuna can on the lawn. Once its full your lawns had enough and you can stop watering.



### Rainwater Harvesting

Rainwater tanks are a great way to capture and store water for use in the house or garden. There are two rebates available;

1. <http://www.enviro-friendly.com/federal-government-water-tank-rebates.pdf>
2. <http://www.nt.gov.au/nreta/environment/rebates/rainwatertank/>



### Using Grey Water

Greywater is wastewater generated from domestic activities such as laundry, dishwashing, and bathing which can be recycled on-site for uses in the garden.

*Laundries use on average 35% of household water.*

Check out Gardening Australia's factsheet on Greywater Systems.

<http://www.abc.net.au/gardening/stories/s1366316.htm>

## Tips on Saving Water

- **Shorter showers** – reducing a shower from 10 to 7 minutes with a conventional shower head saves 13,140 litres per year per person.

- **Dual Flush Toilet** – savings for a typical four person household is 35 000 litres per year.



- **Dishwashers** – old models use 40 litres per wash, new triple star of 3A rated dishwashers can use as little as 15 litres per wash. Saving 9125 litres per year per four-person house hold.



- **Washing Machines** – By replacing a conventional top loader, with a 4 star or 5A rated washing machine, saves 24 000 litres per year per four- person household.

- **Using a Pool Cover** – In Perth, total evaporation from pools is 4 billion litres per year. Evaporation rates are even higher in the Top End.

Ref: A.Wahlquist, 2008, *Thirsty Country, Options for Australia*

### Water Saving Products

savewater!® Alliance

Web: [www.savewater.com.au](http://www.savewater.com.au)

### Greywater guidelines

Department of Health and Families

Web: [www.health.nt.gov.au](http://www.health.nt.gov.au)

Telephone: 8999 2400

### Greywater collection and use

Alternative Technology Association

Web: [www.ata.org.au](http://www.ata.org.au)

### Safe use of detergents

Lanfax Laboratories

Web: [www.lanfaxlabs.com.au](http://www.lanfaxlabs.com.au)

### Did You Know...

A running hose uses 20 litres per minute.

### Further Information:

#### Water Resources

Department of Natural Resources, Environment, the Arts and Sport

#### Palmerston

3rd Floor Goyder Building, PO Box 496 Palmerston NT 0831 Ph: 8999 3687

#### Katherine

32 Giles Street – PMB123, Katherine NT 0852, Ph: 8973 8831

#### Alice Springs

1<sup>st</sup> Floor Alice Plaza, Todd Mall, PO Box 1120 Alice Springs NT 0871, Ph: 8951 9215

Email: [Water.nretas@nt.gov.au](mailto:Water.nretas@nt.gov.au)

Web: [www.nt.gov.au/nretas/water](http://www.nt.gov.au/nretas/water)