

Water efficient products

Being among the highest water users in the country provides Alice Springs residents with much scope to save water at home. One of the cheapest ways to save water is by increasing water use efficiency, meaning residents can carry out the same activities using less water. This would both extend the life of our precious Central Australian groundwater resources and allow residents to make savings on bills.

Water Efficiency Labelling and Standards (WELS) Scheme

Australian residents can easily identify and purchase water efficient products including washing machines, dishwashers, toilets, taps and showers, through the Water Efficiency Labelling and Standards (WELS) Scheme.

Products included in the Scheme must be labelled with a star rating (the more stars the more water efficient) and water consumption or flow figures. Visit www.waterrating.gov.au

Smart Approved WaterMark (SAWM)

Smart Approved WaterMark (SAWM) is a voluntary scheme for products and services which cannot be rated under the WELS program. Approved products so far include low flow car washes, cleaning devices, gardening products, greywater systems, household plumbing products, pools and spas, rainwater harvesting systems, irrigation systems and even synthetic grass. Visit www.smartwatermark.org

Improved technology

Many new and improved water saving products have appeared in the past few years meaning there is a waterwise product available for practically all activities that involve water in the home. Some new and innovative products include systems that generate water from air, hot water systems that redirect cold water to another use or provide instantaneous hot water, and synthetic grass for the home.

Visit www.savewater.com.au for more information.

How much water can you expect to save?

Installing water efficient appliances like 3-star showerheads, dual flush toilets and rainwater tanks will help you to save water. The following table indicates approximate water and cost savings generated by the use of various water efficient products in a household of three people. Note that saving hot water also saves energy; however cost savings from this are not included in the table.



| Water efficient product | Action (based on 3 person household) | Cost | Savings (kL/year) | Savings (\$/year)* |
|-----------------------------|--|-------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| Showerhead | Replace old showerhead with water efficient 3-star rated model | \$20 - \$150 | 60 (5min shower) | \$43 |
| 4 minute shower timer | Fit a timer to your shower and reduce shower times from 7 to 4 minutes | Free - \$15 | 30 | \$22 |
| Home plumbing | Install a device that recirculates hot water through internal pipes allowing hot water to be instantly available | Variable | 17 | \$12 |
| Tap timer | Fit a tap timer to your irrigation system to save water | \$20+ | 10 | \$7 |
| Tap flow controller/aerator | Fit flow controller/aerator to kitchen and bathroom taps to reduce flow | \$10 | 15 | \$10 |
| Toilet | Replace a single flush (12L) toilet with a 4-star rated 4.5/3 L dual flush model | \$150+ | 28 | \$20 |
| Trigger nozzle | Fit a trigger nozzle to your hose for garden watering and car washing | \$20 | 5 | \$4 |
| Washing machine | Replace an old inefficient machine with a 4-star rated or higher washing machine | \$900+ | 21 | \$15 |
| Dishwasher | Replace old dishwasher with 4-star rated (or higher) water efficient model | \$1,500+ | 10 | \$7 |
| Pool cover | Fit and use a swimming pool cover to reduce evaporation when not in use | \$400+ | 60 | \$43 |
| Rainwater tank | Fit a 9kL rainwater tank and pump connected to a toilet or hot water system | \$3,000+ | 60 | \$43 |
| Greywater system | Install a greywater system to reuse water from the laundry and bathroom for use in the garden | \$700 - \$4000 | 250 | \$180 |
| Synthetic grass | Lay synthetic grass that requires no water, fertiliser and always looks green | From \$55m ² | 200 | \$144 |

* (dollar savings assume a water supply price at Jan 2008 \$0.72/KL)

For more information, contact:

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www.nt.gov.au/waterwise