



water is precious — we care

## SCHOOLS, BUSINESSES & OFFICES

### Building

- Check buildings for pipe/tap leaks and water waste
- Install water reducing valves if pressure is high
- Investigate recycling and reusing water
- Investigate collecting and using rainwater
- Ensure fire water hoses are not in use

### Bathrooms

- Use water conservation plumbing fixtures
- Install low-flow showers & taps or flow controls
- Install spring loaded taps or taps with sensors
- Adjust plumbing to use minimum amount of water
- Introduce dual flush toilets

### Kitchens and Canteen

- Install water efficient hose water nozzles
- Wash only full loads in dishwasher
- Install flow restrictors to taps

### Are you a community group or school?

We have installed many rainwater plumbed systems to schools and community facilities particularly for flushing toilets.

## COMMUNITY WATER GRANTS

The Australian Government's Community Water Grants programme has grants available for projects related to:

- water saving and efficiency
- water recycling
- Water treatment

Community groups funded include schools, environmental groups, rural organisations, sporting associations, regional natural resource management bodies, local governments, indigenous communities and private organisations.

Ask about an Audit  
you will be surprised at what you can save.

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## Reduce water use > TOILETS

There are many ways to reduce the water used by your toilet.

**Use** the half-flush button when appropriate.

**Have** your plumber adjust the flush volume of your cistern.

**Check** for leaks by placing a couple of drops of food colouring or dye into the cistern. If colour appears in the bowl within 15 minutes without flushing, then a leak exists and the system should be repaired.

**Replace** the toilet with a 6 litre/3 litre dual flush toilet.

**Replace the cistern on an old toilet** with a 9 litre/4.5 litre cistern if replacing the entire unit is not an option.

### What leaking toilets cost

**Fix** leaking toilets immediately. A slow, barely visible leak can waste more than 4,000 litres per year. Visible, constant leaks can waste over 95,000 litres.

	Litres per hour	Litres per year	Cost per year
Slow leak, barely visible	0.5	4,400	\$3
Leak visible in bowl, no noise	1.5	13,100	\$8
Visible leak, just audible	6	52,600	\$32
Visible leak, constant hissing sound	11	96,400	\$58

## Reduce water use > SHOWERS

**The shower** is one of the easiest and most cost effective places to decrease your water use.

**An inefficient showerhead** can use more than 20L of water every minute while an efficient AAA rated one will provide a high quality shower using a maximum of 9L every minute.

AAA-rated showerheads can save around \$100pa on household energy and water bills. This is because they use less water and less hot water, meaning less energy is used for water heating.

Prices for efficient showers range from \$17 to \$200. You receive two free installed good quality shower heads with your water audit or \$30 rebate from SA Water installed separately.

- **Lower** water use.
- **Decreased** wastewater volume.
- **Reduced** CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from reduced hot water use.



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## WATER AUDIT - how much can you save?

### What is a water audit?

A eco-smart trained plumber comes out to your house and checks taps, toilets, HWS, washing machine, dishwasher etc for leaks and water efficiency.

He will tell you the areas where you are using a lot of water and could save water by changing habits, getting repairs done, perhaps replacing inefficient appliances like the washing machine or installing water efficient valves or a dual flush toilet. This can save you thousands of litres of water and also money.

The audit may take up to an hour & the plumber will sign off the audit & rebate forms with recommendations for improved water efficiency. He will also install up to two shower heads as/if supplied by SA water.

At the same time, the plumber will do a quote for repairs, replacements for water efficiency if that is what you want.

If you would like us to install flow restrictors/ fix leaking taps etc - with prior notice we will allow an extra ½ hr to do this work at the same time. This extra time will be charged at the rate of \$33 per 15mins.

This will save you the call out fee of a separate visit. If it is a longer job and we need to order parts e.g. a new toilet, we will book you a later date that is convenient to you.

### How much does it cost?

Prior to the SA Water rebate promotion it would cost you \$300 for us to do a water audit, supply and install two water efficient shower heads.

With the \$100 rebate and our special discount up until the end of March 2008, it will only cost you \$80. This is a genuine saving to you of \$220 plus of course, what you save in water costs.

This rate is for Adelaide metro area & payment must be made on the day with cash, credit or cheque.

### What do you need to do?

Phone SA Water Hotline on 1800 130 952 and they will send you out the forms to do the audit and claim the \$100 rebate. They will also send you up to two free water-saving shower heads if applicable. The rebate is only available for an audit performed & signed off by a licensed plumber.

### When can you do it?

We are committed to helping you save water. Water is a precious thing so be pro-active—call us now to book.

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## RAINWATER TANKS

Simply installing a rainwater tank with a tap will save water and money.

To take it to the next step and have rainwater plumbed into the building to use for flushing toilets; use in the laundry or other approved uses is a consideration for those with large water usage and/or are serious about environmental concerns and sustainable living.

For new buildings and some additions/extensions this is now a requirement in most states, including South Australia.

Retrofitting to an existing building is a substantial commitment and involves much more than simply installing a tank.

It may include installing the tank; a pump and rain bank system, excavation and extra pipe work, backflow control, UV treatment, electrician and labour costs.

Call us to discuss your particular site and situation for an estimated cost and quote.

Rainwater tanks need regular maintenance, including:

- Checking insects or small animals cannot get in
- Clearing leaves from gutters and tank entrances
- Regularly cleaning sludge from inside the tank



## WATER EFFICIENCY LABELS

The Water Efficient Labelling and Standards (WELS) Scheme is an Australia-wide rating and labelling system to help consumers select water efficient products at the point of sale.

WELS labels help you select a water efficient model for washing machines, dishwashers, flow controllers, toilets, showers, tap ware, urinals

The WELS Water Rating has two main features:

- A star rating of the model's water efficiency
- A water consumption guide

Labels display from 1 to 6 stars, with more stars meaning the product is more water efficient.

Some products may also be labelled with a 'Zero Star Rated' label, which indicates that the product is either not water efficient or does not meet basic performance requirements.

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## Reduce water use > LEAKS

Leaking water costs money and wastes water.

A dripping tap can waste 2,000L of water a month.

### Checklist for leaking taps & toilets

- High water bills
- When all is quiet at night, you can hear a dripping tap
- Toilet is constantly refilling or leaking into the bowl
- Bath or basin has water leak stains

### Water Meter self check—leak detection

Find a time when no-one is using water for a period of time i.e. overnight or while everyone is out at work & record the last three digits. Re-check the number & if it has changed, you may have a concealed leak. Call us to check.

## HOT WATER TIPS > save water, save energy

**Reducing** your use of hot water is a great way to save on your energy bills, regardless of what water heater you have.

**Showering** uses the most hot water in a household. Installing a water efficient (AAA rated) showerhead can reduce this use by more than half (22L per min down to 9L per min).

**Buy** washing machines and dishwashers that have a cold or warm water cycle option and use this cycle as much as possible.

**Immediately repair** dripping hot water taps and leaking appliances, including the relief valve from your hot water heater.

**Ensure** that the temperature gauge on storage hot water systems is set at 60°C. A higher temperature than this means that energy is used unnecessarily and a lower temperature than this may allow harmful bacteria to thrive. Instantaneous hot water systems should be set to no more than 50°C.

**Turn off** your water heater when you go on holidays.

**Maintain** your hot water system and have it serviced according to manufacturer's instructions. In Adelaide, this is more frequent due to our hard water.



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## ENVIRONMENTAL PLUMBING



As licensed EcoSmart plumbers, we are trained in water audits and in the design and installation of environmentally sustainable plumbing solutions in and around your home or business.

We encourage and advise on efficient technology and products. We can help you save water and money. Ask us about a comprehensive audit on your business or home.

*We are committing to help protect our environment by promoting and installing environmentally sustainable plumbing systems and products.*

*These include:*

- Solar hot water systems
- Recycled grey water solutions
- Stormwater harvesting
- Rainwater collection systems
- Environmentally friendly pipe products – HDPE, PPP
- Waterless Urinals
- Water efficient fixtures
- Flow restrictive tap ware
- Dual flush toilets
- Recycled imported materials for backfilling trenches
- Water saving devices

**Fresh water is a precious resource.**

**Less than 3% of the world's water is fresh & most of this is frozen in ice caps.**

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