

TIPS FOR SAVING WATER AND PREVENTING POLLUTION OUTSIDE THE HOME

THINK
water!

GARDEN

- Wash the car, outdoor furniture and the family pet on the grass – this will water your lawn and reduce pollutants entering waterways;
- Alternatively use a 'waterless car wash'. There are numerous products now on the market;
- If you have lawn, adjust the mower blades to 6 centimetres or higher to encourage deeper root growth and moisture retention;
- Reduce evaporation by covering your pool, and water the garden during the cooler parts of the day;
- Install a timer on your watering system and check regularly for leaks and faults;
- Review and adjust watering systems regularly to suit the changes in season and remember to turn off reticulation when it's going to rain!
- Change your gardening habits - go organic to minimise the use of pesticides and herbicides. Try companion planting to deter insects, and beer traps are highly effective in killing snails;
- Use phosphate-free fertiliser on your lawns and gardens. This will ensure excess doesn't reach groundwater or stormwater systems;
- Don't fertilise just before or during rain, to minimise the chance of runoff;
- Try to dislodge weeds in the garden with tools, not chemicals;
- Plant natives. They often use less water, less fertilisers and are more resistant to pests. See the Cottesloe "Grow Local Plants" guide available at the Council for information on suitable species.

GARAGE AND SHED

- Use water based paints where possible, and varnishes and glues with low levels of volatile organic compounds (VOC's);
- Always keep paint tins sealed properly when in storage to prevent spilling or drying out.;
- Only buy enough paint for what you need. Unwanted paint can be used as an undercoat for the next paint job or can be donated to a community group for use;
- Reduce your use of hazardous products such as toxic pesticides, herbicides, baits, poisons, cleaning products, chemicals and wood preservatives;
- Hazardous products can be taken to the Cottesloe Depot (rear 253 Marmion St) where they are stored and then safely recycled. These should never be poured down the drain!



Access the Green Home Guide at www.acfonline.org.au and click on the 'Green The Garden' link for tips and information on designing and maintaining a healthy, toxic free and waterwise garden.