



THINK
water!

In southern Western Australia, water resources are under pressure due to reduced rainfall, increased population and other factors.

The design of new houses provides the biggest chance to set yourself up to 'design in' major water use efficiency to save money and contribute to community efforts to save precious water.

Did You Know?

In the typical house, the use of showers, clothes washing machines and toilets can consume more than three quarters of all indoor water use. In the majority of homes, all of this quality drinking water is used once then goes to the sewer. There are now simple, low cost ways of reducing this water use whilst saving on your water costs.

Water Use in the Home and Garden

The two main water sources in Perth are from the water main (through taps etc) and from private bores. Both sources are under pressure. Savings of water use from both sources will result in cost savings in your water bills and in the cost of power use when running a bore.

Planning for a new home provides the chance for a 'new look' at water use. Consider the following to reduce water use:

- Don't use drinking quality water to water your garden. Use bore water and/or water recycled from showers and clothes washing machines (grey water).
- Use covers on swimming pools and spas, to reduce evaporation. Evaporation can remove more water from a pool per year than toilet use in a home.
- A home can be cooled in summer using good orientation, window shading, natural ventilation and fans. This could remove the need for an air conditioner, particularly evaporative, where large amounts of water are used.
- All new houses must adhere to the criteria of 5 Star Plus for water efficiency, but the guidelines can also be used when renovating to help create a more waterwise home.

What you can do to help?

- **Buy and install water smart fittings and appliances in the kitchen, bathroom and laundry.** Low flow showers and taps, systems that store colder water while the hot tap is reaching the desired temperature, toilets with lower flush volumes, waterless toilets, front loading washing machines etc are all modern ways of saving on water use and cost.
- **Consider installing rainwater tanks.** The stored water can be used in a number of ways, even in Perth where there are less summer rain events. Such water can be plumbed into toilets and reduce the use of high-quality treated scheme water for flushing.

Use products and services with the Smart Approved WaterMark label

This is a water saving program for outdoor water use and ensures any product bearing the label will save water.

Visit www.smartwatermark.org for more information



- **Install a waterwise garden and/or irrigation system, where the garden and irrigation system are designed to minimise water use.** The systems provided can include sub surface drip irrigation to reduce evaporation and wind drift loss or make use of grey water from showers and clothes washing machines.
- **Find Out More.** For information on greywater use and systems visit the Department of Health website at www.health.wa.gov.au. For waterwise tips see the Water Corporation website at www.watercorporation.com.au and follow the "Being Waterwise" links. Visit the Department of Water website at www.water.wa.gov.au for information on household waterwise rebates.



In Cottesloe, drinking quality water comes from Water Corporation groundwater bores, desalination plants and water holding dams in catchment areas. This water is treated to a high standard and piped to your property. The majority of this water is then used once and piped into the sewer or put onto the lawn or garden.

Any success in reducing use, recycling its use such as the application of greywater onto the garden, or replacing its use. e.g. by using bore water on the garden, will benefit your family as well as the community to continue sufficiency in water availability.

If using bore water on the property and road verge consider the replacement of reticulated lawns and exotic plants with low/no water use native plants especially adapted to the local soil and climate.



WATER SAVING TIPS



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Planning a
 New Home