

Outdoors

- Water gardens in the early morning or late evening to minimise evaporation. Try not to over-water - use a timer to remind you to turn off the sprinkler. Rainwater collected from the roof is ideal for gardens (contact the Council's Call Centre on 839 0400 for information). Group plants with similar water requirements together so that you can tend to them without over-watering other plants. Remember, native plants require less watering.



Washing the car

- Wash using a bucket and rinse off with the hose. Wash your car on your lawn if possible to avoid detergent and other residues from entering the stormwater system. Alternatively, wash your car at a car-wash centre whose drains are connected to the wastewater network.



Water audits

- We can provide a free water audit to help you reduce water use and costs. Call us on 839 0400 to book an audit.

For more information, please contact Council's Call Centre on 839 0400 or visit www.waitakere.govt.nz.



How to save water

Tips for being water efficient in Waitakere

Water efficiency tips

Kitchen and Laundry

- A running tap can send 14 litres of water down the drain every minute. For rinsing dishes or washing fruit and vegetables etc, half-fill your sink with water rather than leaving the tap running.
- Adjust the water level in your dishwasher or washing machine to suit the load, or preferably only do full loads. When buying a new machine, choose one that is water efficient. Look out for the “AAA” Water Conservation Label – the more ‘A’s the more water efficient it is.



Baths and showers

- An average showerhead with a mains pressure cylinder uses at least 12 litres of water per minute. By installing a water efficient showerhead you can reduce this to between 5 and 7 litres. An efficient shower will also reduce your power bill, as you use less hot water. Also, short showers use much less water than baths.

Brushing teeth, washing and shaving

- Turn off the water between rinses when brushing teeth, shaving and washing. If you brush your teeth twice a day, for two minutes each time, and leave the tap running, you waste approximately 56 litres per day.



Toilet

- The average toilet uses 11 litres per full flush. You can save up to 8 litres of water per flush by either installing a gizmo to your existing cistern (contact us for a free gizmo), or a new dual-flush cistern.
- It is also common for toilet cisterns to leak or overflow. To check for this, put some food colouring in the cistern. If it appears in the bowl or out the overflow pipe, either adjust the water level in the cistern or you may have to get it repaired.