

*Horowhenua District Council
is committed to becoming
more environmentally
friendly.*

We want to encourage our community to be more environmentally friendly by helping you conserve water. Water isn't as free and abundant as you might think.

Water conservation starts at home, where our daily use of tapware, showerheads, dishwashers and toilets all add up to some unsightly numbers. Fortunately, you can dramatically reduce your water usage through helpful tips you can use throughout your home.

Reduce, repair, replace, retrofit and reuse

Reduce

Look for ways to use less water.

Repair

Fix leaks fast.

Replace

When renovating or building, choose the most water efficient appliances you can.

Retrofit

Change your current appliances water efficiency by adding a feature that doesn't limit performance but reduces water use.

Reuse

Catch rainwater or greywater (from the shower or washing machine) and use for pot plants and the garden.

Water Conservation in New Zealand

In New Zealand, we're surrounded by water, so it's easy to think of it as a free resource - one that will never run out. But that isn't entirely the case.

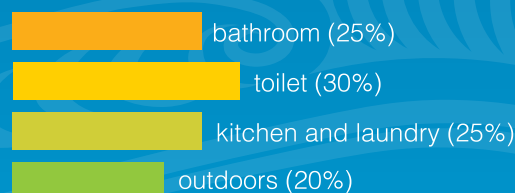
Increasingly, towns and cities are facing water shortages. Some will have to invest in costly new infrastructure in coming years to ensure that supply can keep up with demand.

There is only a certain amount of water in our rivers, streams and dams, and sometimes (especially in summer) demand is greater than supply.

An average New Zealand family uses 250-300 litres of water per person per day.

Did you know?

In a typical household, water consumption is fairly evenly split between the:



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Water Saving Tips

5 Rs of water
conservation

Bathroom

Short showers saves you money

Each minute you add to your shower time uses about 14 litres of water. For a household of three that extra minute could cost you about \$90 a year in electricity.

Don't just watch the shower warming up

Use a bucket to catch water as it warms up. It's easy to carry out of the house so you can keep water hungry herbs happy in summer.

Was your house built around 1990 or more recently?

If you have a mains pressure hot water system you could be using more water in your shower than you need. The handheld type of shower head is very easy and cheap to retrofit it with a flow restrictor. If you have a fixed to the wall shower head contact your plumber for options.

Be a tidy kiwi, put it in the bin!

Using your loo as a rubbish bin uses heaps of water (average flush is over 6 litres of water) and also causes a lot of issues when treating waste water too.

Kitchen

Have a couple of thousand worms eat your food scraps, or compost!

Waste disposal units use about 30 litres of water per day and send a lot of extra rubbish into water treatment centres.

Fill it up before flicking the switch

Fill your dishwasher completely before running. Dishwashers use a huge amount of electricity so doing this will save you money as well.

Rubba dub dub, put your veges in a tub!

When washing fruit and veges use a small bowl instead of running a tap. Then you can also reuse that water!

Slow the flow

Install an aerator or flow restrictor on sink taps. This allows you to control your water use easier and still get the job done.

Laundry

Love shopping? The more stars the better

When buying a new washing machine, consider those that offer cycle and load size adjustments. They're more water and energy efficient.

Hold off for a full wash

That saves water and electricity! The average volume of water for a single load of washing is just over 120 litres.

Catch that water

When soaking clothes use a bucket instead of the tub so you can chuck it on a shrub that needs some love.

Garden

The silent sprinkler

If you are using a sprinkler or drip lines, set a timer to remind yourself to turn it off.

Make mulch your friend

Mulch is a layer of organic matter that covers the soil. Good quality mulch can save about 70% of water from being lost to evaporation loss. It also keeps the weeds down, stops runoff and adds goodness to the soil.

Evaporation is enemy number one

Water your garden early in the morning or later in the evening to maximise absorption to the plants.

Planning and planting

When planning a new garden look for natives

that suit our climate, or group plants with the same watering needs together.

Get in the know

Use a rain gauge or a tin to monitor rainfall at your house and adjust your watering to suit.

Lawn

Wait to water

Water your lawn only when it really needs it. A good way to test this is to step on the grass. If it springs back up it doesn't need watering. If it stays flat it needs watering.

Deep soak your lawn instead of giving your lawn a quick drink every night

This helps the grass to become more deeply rooted seeking out moisture from the deep soil and it makes your lawn stronger.

Grow your grass a little bit longer in summer

Taller grass holds water better and it will stay greener for longer. Let the lawn go brown, it won't die off completely but will spring back to life when it rains again.

Take aim with your sprinkler

Use a timer with your sprinkler and take good aim, make sure you position your sprinklers so the water lands on your lawn or garden, not paved areas or unsuspecting neighbours.

Warm season grasses

Find out about how warm season grasses look great in summer temperatures and don't need a lot of water or mowing.

