



Saving Water

Every Precious Drop

Around the World and at Home

It is predicted that over the next 25 years many parts of the world will become hotter and drier. Together with the forecasted increase in the world's population, water will become even more precious than it is now.

Do you want to have to wonder where your next drink will come from?

Will water become more expensive than gold? We have to act NOW to conserve and manage our water to make sure there will be enough water for everyone in 25 years.

Using Water

Antarctica is the driest place on earth. Australia is the second driest but Australians are one of the thirstiest peoples on the planet. The average Australian domestic water consumption is 250 kilolitres per year per household. That's 350 litres per person per day of water.

OK – hands up who's using all that water? 350 litres per day is equivalent to a full spa bath.

Some interesting water consumption facts:

- 130 litres of water is needed to produce 1 kilogram of beef.
- 15 litres of water is required to make 0.1 kilograms (1/4 pound) of hamburger
- 35 litres of water is used to process one can of vegetables.
- 5,678 litres of water is used to produce a barrel of beer.
- A mature beef animal will drink between 35 and 66 litres (8 to 15 gallons) of water per day, depending on the temperature. In other words the average person uses as much water as between 5 to 9 head of cattle per day.
- 190,000 litres of water is used to produce 1 car tyre.

Did you know.....?

On average it takes roughly 70 times more water to grow food for people than the amount people use for domestic purposes.

A kilogram of beef may use more than 13 times the amount of water needed to produce the same weight of cereal. So the diet of a typical meat-eater comes courtesy of about 5400 litres of water a day, double that of a vegetarian getting the same nutritional value.

As you can see, we use a lot of water but there are also many ways to SAVE WATER. Here are a few... perhaps you can think of some more?

Use Recycled Water

Some cities in Australia only recycle two per cent of its water, city dwellers are now being urged to stop wasting water.

If we were to replace drinking water with recycled water when we don't need drinking water quality, for example, for things like watering the garden or flushing the toilet, we could use our water much more efficiently.

In some major cities such as London, water is recycled many times and the same water is said to be drunk 5, 6 or 7 times. In Australia currently, much of our water is used just once, after which it is dispatched to the waste water treatment plant. It is then generally discharged into the ocean or rivers.

Rainwater Tanks

Rainwater tanks have recently become compulsory in every new home built in NSW, Australia. If every home had a rainwater collection tank, 1000's of litres of piped water could be saved every year. Rainwater tank is quite safe when used on the garden, washing the car and flushing the toilet.

Cleaning

Getting things clean can use a lot of water. If your car really does need to be washed, why not wash it on or near the lawn so that the water can flow onto the grass. Using a bucket, instead of the hose will also help to save water.



Water saving that YOU can do

Look how you can save Water at Home

Brushing your teeth while the tap is running, or hosing down the dirty cement path, are both ways many people in city areas waste water. So much so, it's believed if these small things were stopped, water consumption could be reduced by 30 per cent.

Shower Heads:

Older style shower heads can use up to 20 litres of water a minute while AAA rated shower heads use only 9 litres of water per minute. A ten minute shower can use 180 litres of water. Why not take a one, two or three minute shower? How fast can you wash yourself?

Washing Machines:

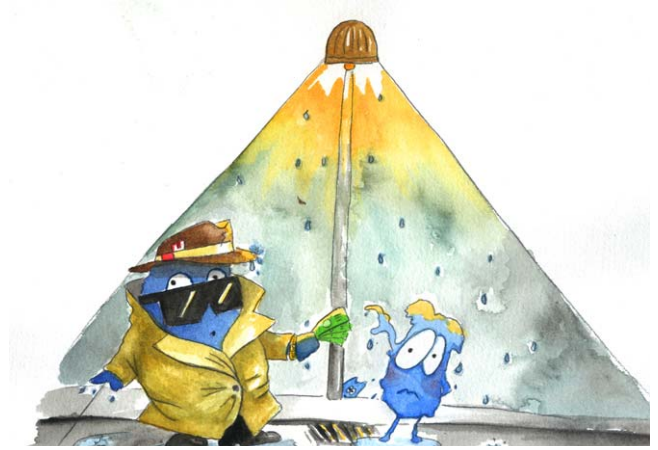
Top loading washing machines use about 120 litres of water for one cycle. Front loading machines can use a lot less water and energy. Try to ensure that your washing machine is full before you use it.

Dishwashers:

Washing dishes by hand uses about 18 litres of water while a dishwasher can use up to 55 litres of water. Look for AAA rated dishwashers which have cut the figure to 18 litres.

Saving Water in the Garden

Drip irrigation in your garden and in agriculture, is a much more efficient use of water. The water drops drip directly around the roots of the plant so less water is lost to evaporation.



The water police are always on the look out for drips

Watch where you chuck your muck....

Even where there is plenty of fresh water, people, industry and agriculture still manage to make it dirty by pouring rubbish into it. Isn't that a strange place to put your muck if you want a drink?

There is an estimated 12,000 km of polluted water worldwide – more than the total amount of water contained in the world's ten largest river basins.

It takes eight litres of clean water to clean one litre of dirty water... seems that we could save an awful lot of water if we tried to keep it clean in the first place.

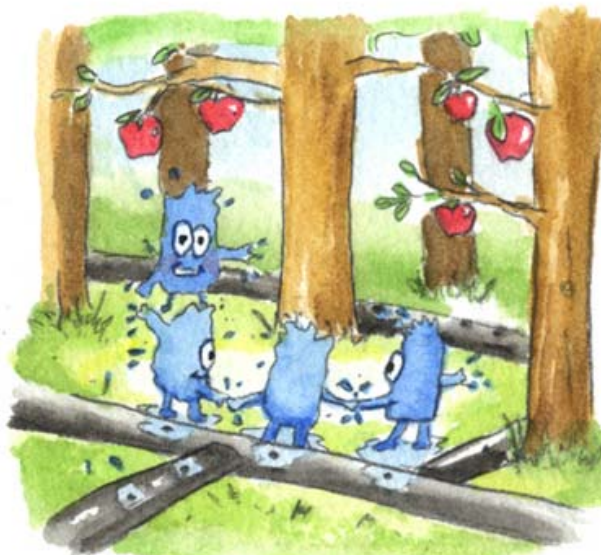
Water pollution affects more than humans. It also destroys the freshwater ecosystems that are homes to great numbers of animals, birds, fish and all those tiny critters you can't even see.

Half of the world's wetlands have been destroyed in the last 100 years.

Because of pollution, 20% of freshwater fish are threatened or have become extinct.

Excerpt from 'Water...the Amazing Journey'

by Caren Trafford (Etram)



www.planetkids.biz



Water needs to be paid a great deal of attention

www.wilburworm.com