



## Tips on Saving Water

Save money and look after the environment by installing and using water savings products

### Tips for a Water Wise Garden

**Water** – Learn about your plants water needs and only water when necessary.

**Mulch** – Keep soil cool and reduce evaporation by up to 70 per cent. Spread mulch at least 7 cm deep around plants.

**Remove Weeds** – As they compete with plants for water.

**Wetting Agents** – Water crystals and soil-wetting agents will retain moisture and help nourish your plants.

**Fertilise** – Regularly feed your plants to ensure they are healthy.

**Plants** – Only absorb water in their root zone, so watering for long periods is wasting water.

**Lawn** – Water only when your lawn needs it. Once or twice a week is usually enough. Put a small sized tuna can on the lawn. Once its full your lawns had enough and you can stop watering.

**Rainwater Harvesting** – Rainwater tanks are a great way to capture and store water for use in the house or garden.



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**Shorter showers** – reducing a shower from 10 to 7 minutes with a conventional shower head saves 13 140 litres per year per person.

**Dual Flush Toilet** – savings for a typical four person household is 35 000 litres per year.

**Dishwashers** – old models use 40 litres per wash, new triple star of 3A rated dishwashers can use as little as 15 litres per wash. Saving 9 125 litres per year per four-person house hold

**Washing Machines** – By replacing a conventional top loader, with a 4 star or 5A rated washing machine, saves 24 000 litres per year per four person household.

**Using a Pool Cover** – Evaporation rates are high in the Territory. Shade the pool or use pool covers to reduce evaporation and keep the pool clean.

### Useful References

A Wahlquist, 2008, Thirsty Country, Options for Australia

Water Saving Products

[www.savewater.com.au](http://www.savewater.com.au)

