



SMART WATER ADVICE

Saving water in the garden

Install a rainwater tank

- ◆ Rainwater tanks save water and help save the environment.
- ◆ Rainwater tanks provide flexibility for garden watering.
- ◆ You can also connect your rainwater tank to your toilet and/or laundry and save even more water.
- ◆ Using rainwater instead of mains water will reduce your water volume charges on your water bill.

Use Mulch

- ◆ Mulch can reduce evaporation of water from soil by up to 70%.
- ◆ Mulch suppresses weeds, adds nutrients and reduces run off and soil movement.

Only water when needed

- ◆ Put your finger into the soil and if it is moist below the surface you don't need to water.
- ◆ Check the weather forecast. If there's rain due, let the rain do your watering for you.
- ◆ Only water between the hours of 6pm and 10am to reduce evaporation loss.
- ◆ Only water the plant root zone to avoid wasting water where plants won't use it.
- ◆ Use drip irrigation under mulch if possible as this is the most water efficient method of garden watering.

Select plants carefully

- ◆ Select plants that have low watering needs where possible.
- ◆ Position plants with similar watering needs together as this saves water and also helps keeps plants healthier by providing the right amount of water.
- ◆ Consider your soil type and amount of shade when selecting plants.

Check for leaks

- ◆ Check your taps regularly for signs or sounds of leaks.
- ◆ A tap dripping at a rate of 1 drip per second loses over 12,000 litres/yr. Garden taps are cheap and easy to replace.
- ◆ Wet patches on the ground could indicate a possible underground leaking pipe or watering system. Call a plumber to fix any leaking pipes.

Permanent Water Saving Rules

- ◆ Permanent Water Saving Rules apply every day of the year.
- ◆ A watering system must only be operated between the hours of 6pm and 10am.
- ◆ A hand-held hose fitted with a leak free trigger nozzle or a bucket can be used at any time.
- ◆ Hosing-down driveways or paths is not permitted except under special circumstances. Check details on the website of your local water corporation.

See our factsheets on rainwater tanks, mulch and detecting leaks for more information.



**Watch the 'How to' video guides on
The Water Conservancy YouTube channel**

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