

# 6 facts about water usage

## Water rating labels

The **Water Efficiency Labelling and Standard** (WELS) scheme is similar to the energy rating system for electrical appliances. More stars means less water is used and there is also an associated saving on energy costs if the water is heated.

Comparison table showing average costs and consumption in kilolitres (kL) per year\*:

|                                       |                                                                    |                             |                             |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Shower heads                          | Based on a family of 4 having 2x 4 minute showers a day – 365 days | 1 star = \$356<br>186.88 kL | 3½ star = \$167<br>87.60 kL |
| Washing machine<br>8 kg load capacity | Based on 5 loads x 52 weeks                                        | 2 star = \$75<br>39.41 kL   | 5 star = \$28<br>14.82 kL   |

\*for more products comparisons, visit [waterrating.gov.au](http://waterrating.gov.au)

## Water efficient fixtures

Water efficient fixtures such as flow control valves on taps can reduce flow from about 16-20 litres a minute to 9 or less litres a minute. 3½ star water-efficient showerheads use as little as 7.5 litres of water per minute.

## Bathroom equipment

The latest 4.5/3 litre dual-flush toilets use up to 60% less water than older models. That's a saving of up to \$42 a year based on 16 flushes a day.

## Leaks

A tap or toilet dripping slowly can waste up to 2 litres of water each hour – that could add up to nearly 20,000 litres a year or the equivalent of a small pool.

## Swimming pools

Evaporation is a major cause of water loss from your swimming pool. It averages 200 litres of water a day and can equal the entire volume of the pool over a year. Covering your pool will reduce evaporation and also prevent sunlight from penetrating the water which means you will reduce the amount of chemicals needed to keep the pool clean.

## Gardening

If you water during the day, you can lose as much as 50% of the water through evaporation and will need to water more often. Watering the garden after 8pm or before 8am, mulching and using tap timers and dripper systems will make your irrigation more efficient. And don't forget to turn the irrigation off when it's raining!

**For more information and to calculate your household water usage, visit Power and Water's Home Water Use Calculator at [powerwater.com.au/save](http://powerwater.com.au/save)**

Disclaimer: The values and comparisons mentioned are an estimate based on average consumption. Actual consumption, running costs and savings will vary depending on how you use your appliances.