

1. Driveways

- Use a broom instead of a hose to clean the driveway, patio and pool decks.

2. Kitchen

Washing machine

- Horizontal axis clothes washing machines are more efficient. When in the market for a new machine, consider a high efficiency model that will use an average of 30% less water and 40-50% less energy.
- Wait till you have a full load before running the washing machine to save both water and energy. If you can't wait for a full load, use the right water level to match the size of the load.

Dishwasher

- Only run your dish washing machine when it is full to make best use of water, energy and detergent.
- Cut down on the amount of rinsing you do before loading the dishwasher. Most modern dishwashers do an excellent job of cleaning dishes, pots and pans all by themselves.
- Run the load on a short cycle rather than standard cycle.
- When purchasing a new appliance, look for one offering several different cycles. This will allow you to select more energy and water efficient cycles when heavy duty cleaning is not required.

Kitchen basin

- Re-use the water that vegetables are washed in for watering houseplants or for cleaning.
- Instead of waiting for tap water to get cold enough for drinking, keep a bottle of water in the refrigerator.

- If you wash dishes by hand, rinse dishes off in a sink partially filled with water instead of running water.
- Wash vegetables in a sink or pan partially filled with water instead of running water.
- If you are washing dishes in a double sink, wash them all at once and rinse them all at once.
- Defrost foods in the microwave instead of under running water.

3. Bathroom

Bathroom basin

- Turn off the water when brushing your teeth, soaping your hands or while shaving.

Showers

- Replace your showerhead with a water efficient shower rose/ showerhead that delivers a maximum of 10 litres of water per minute (this can reduce water use by 50% and the fine spray gives the same great shower using less water).
- Take shorter showers. Five-minute showers per day for a four-member family use more than 100 000 litre of water per year.
- Some showerheads are available with a "shower off" button to conserve water while you lather up.

Baths

- Half fill your bath, or share a bath.
- Avoid filling your bath to a depth greater than 100mm. Mark the depth on the side of the bath with a marker pen or piece of tape.

Toilets

- Check toilets periodically for leaks and repair them promptly. Did you know that a simple toilet leak could use 200 litres extra water per day?

- Reduce the amount of water used by an older toilet by placing a half litre or one litre plastic or glass bottle of water in the cistern. Make sure that the bottle has a flat base and is stable and does not interfere with any of the working parts. This should be checked on a regular basis.
- Don't use your toilet as a wastebasket or ashtray. Flush only when essential.
- Make sure that the toilet mechanism valve washer in the cistern seats correctly.

Dual flush toilets

- Install a dual-flush toilet mechanism that will save you thousands of litres per year.
- This can save a family of five at least 50 000 litres of water per year. The savings will pay back the cost of installation within months.
- The toilet allows you to select a full flush (9 litres) for solids or half flush (4, 5 litres) for liquids.

How to detect a leak in a toilet:

- Some toilet leaks make a running sound. Others are silent leaks.
- To detect a silent leak, put some drops of food colouring into your toilet cistern.
- Wait thirty minutes.
- You have a leak when there is colouring in the bowl.
- Replace the washer.
- Many toilet leaks can be fixed with simple tools.

Water pipes

- Insulate hot water pipes and geysers - this will retain the heat longer, so you don't lose too much cold water while waiting for the water to get hot.
- Thermally insulated hot water pipes and electric water heaters can save water. Insulation will reduce the amount of time it takes for hot water to reach the tap, saving water and electricity (it is estimated that 65% of the water used in the house is hot water).
- Flow regulators will deliver constant flow rates irrespective of pressure and can be installed in showers and taps, or in pipelines.

How to detect leaks in pipes:

- Leaky pipes under your sink and behind your washing machine or dishwasher can waste great amounts of water.
- To detect these unseen leaks, check your water meter.
- Then don't run any water for an hour and check the meter again.
- If the meter has moved, you may have a leak.

Taps

- Flow regulators in taps are effective in reducing the water flow.
- Aerators on the tap and mixer tap outlets aerate and reduce water flow (it gives the same feeling of pressure without using the same volume of water).
- Flow controller aerators are even more effective.

Types of taps

- Two-handle systems should be replaced with single lever mixer taps.
- Self-closing demand taps that deliver water only while the pushbutton is depressed. Ideal for use in schools, sports fields, parks, communal water supply systems and public ablutions.
- Metering taps that deliver a pre-set volume of water when activated. Ideal for use in factories, institutions, commuter ablutions, health clubs and sport venues.

Leaking taps

- Fix a leaking tap at less than R1 for a new washer if you do it yourself, or at a cost of between R100 to R200 if you call plumber.
- You can save up to 22 000 litres of water per year.
- A slow dripping tap can waste up to 30 litres of water a day, yet all it takes to fix it is a little bit of D-I-Y plumbing and about R1. In less than half-an-hour you can replace an old washer and save thousands of litres of water per year. Of course you could save even more by calling a professional plumber and having special low flow basin taps fitted.

How to repair a leaking tap in 5 easy steps:

- Switch off your main water supply. Open the tap fully and allow water to run out completely. Plug the basin to prevent loose screws from falling down the drain. Then remove the tap handle.
- Remove parts: Unscrew the bell shaped cover and remove. Lay the parts down in the same order you remove them to simplify reassembly.
- Unscrew the headpart with a water-pump plier or similar tool and remove.
- Unscrew the washer retaining nut, remove the faulty tap washer. Replace with a new washer of the same size and type.
- Reassemble and turn on water supply again.

Please check with your local plumbing merchant for simple repair instructions of other tap types.

4. Swimming pool

- Cover the swimming pool to slow down the evaporation of water.

5. Pressure control valves

- A pressure control valve controls the fluctuation of pressure through the home's plumbing system and prevents imbalances in the system.
- Reduced flow pressure reduces the amount of water used.
- The main benefits: water saving and a balance between hot and cold water systems.