



THE ULTIMATE GUIDE TO **SAVING MONEY** ON YOUR WATER BILLS

SAVE UP TO \$1,500 PER YEAR

WELCOME

Hi there.

You probably downloaded this guide because you want to know how to save money on your water bill.

And I get it – high water bills just send money down the drain.

But apart from reducing your water bills, saving water is also great for the environment.

So let's save our favourite planet together!

As a plumber, I am very familiar with all the ways we waste water, and I am here to give you my best advice on how to save water – and money on your bills.

In order to defeat this 'enemy' (i.e. water wastage), we will:

- Identify your money leaks (pun intended!)
- Look at the 4 key areas of your home where you are potentially wasting water and the opportunities you have to save water and money
- Take action steps to use water more efficiently in and around your home.

So if you recently **received a high water bill** or just want to **save some money or water...**

This guide will give you some ideas that can save you literally HUNDREDS of dollars in water wastage per year (if consistently applied).

Let's dive right in!

Dane
Gold Coast Plumbing Company

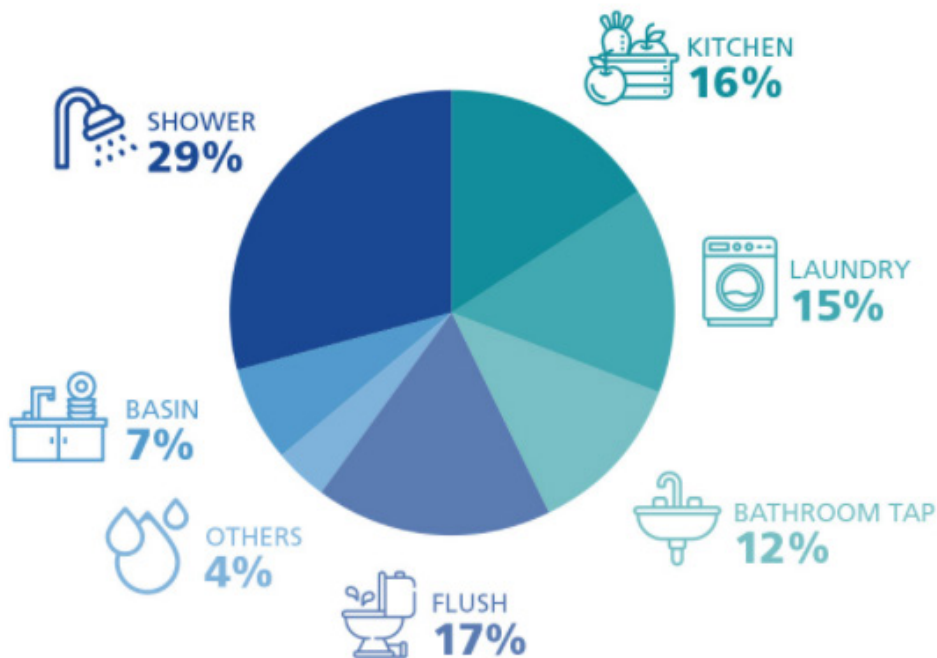
KNOW YOUR MONEY LEAKS

First, let me ask you a question:

Do you know where you use most of your water?

Take a look at the chart below that shows the average amount of water each of us uses every day (of course, these are just rough estimates and numbers will vary per person).

Water Usage In a Household



PUB Household Water Consumption Study in 2018/2019

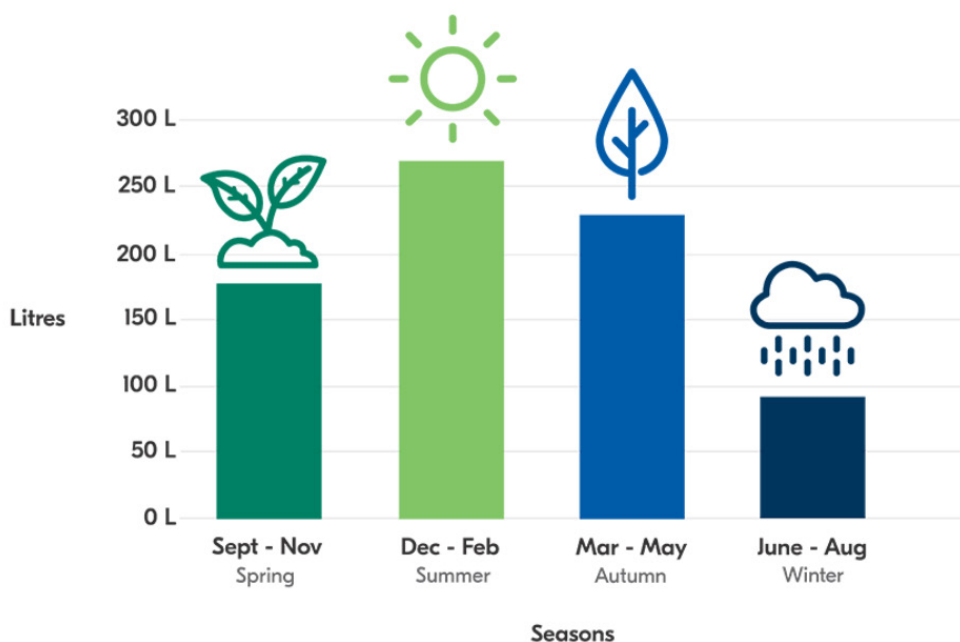


HERE'S A BREAKDOWN OF YOUR AVERAGE MONTHLY WATER BILL:

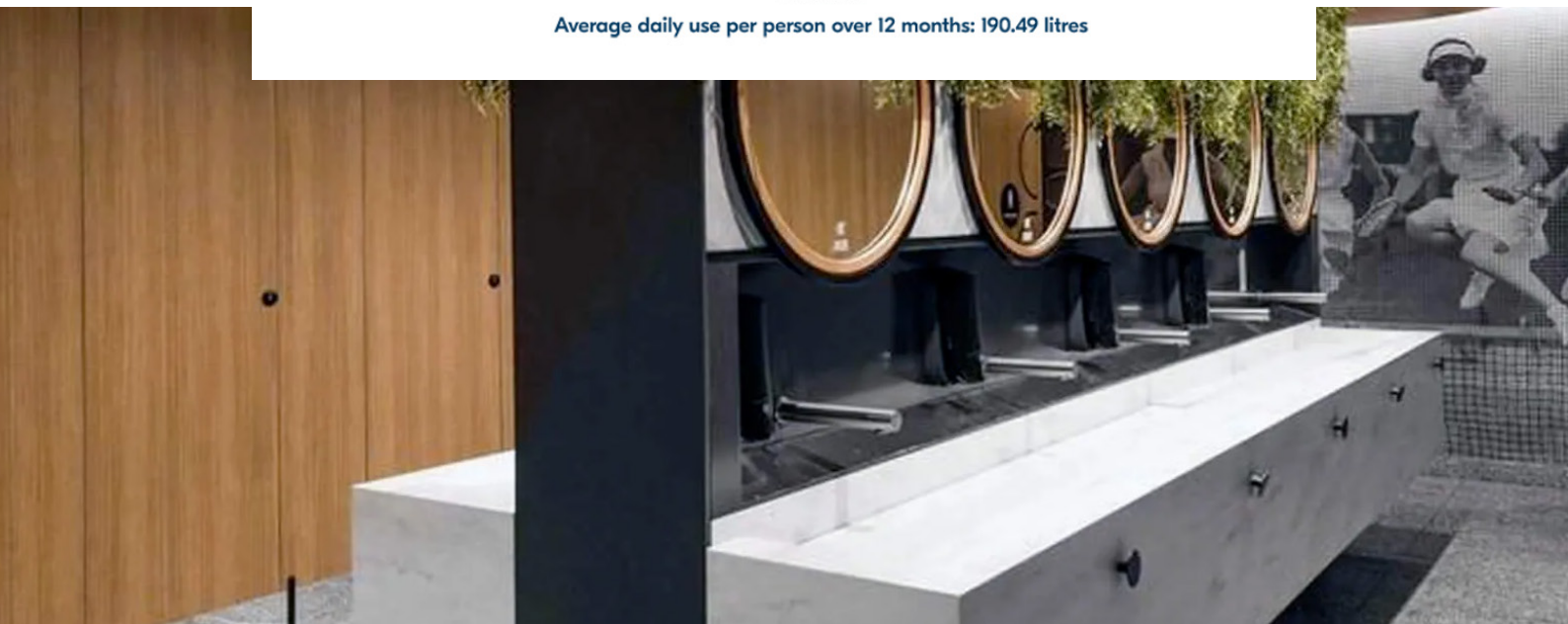
1. If you have a garden, a yard or a swimming pool, then water usage in these areas might make up nearly half of your overall monthly water bill (if not more)!
2. The second biggest offender (or first, if you don't have a garden or a yard) is your bathroom, namely your shower, toilet and bathroom tap.
3. Next we have our kitchen usage - anything related to cooking or doing dishes (dishwasher or basin).
4. And then at the end of the list we have our laundry.

Note: as you know, your water use changes with seasons and increases during summer - especially if you live in a house with a garden. That's why your summer bills will probably be higher than other months.

This is what the average daily residential water use broken down by season of the year might look like (per person):



Average daily use per person over 12 months: 190.49 litres



STEP 1:

WATER-WASTING MISTAKES YOU COULD BE MAKING IN YOUR BATHROOM



1. Running the tap continuously

If you're absent minded running your tap while brushing your teeth, washing your hands or shaving, know you're not alone.

But keep in mind that running the tap for 2 minutes uses roughly 7-15 liters of water. If you brush your teeth twice a day, that will add up to over 5000 liters of water a year. That's a lot of water!

Solution to this problem is easy: Turn it off! This could save a home of 4 people up to \$100 per year.

Action step:

- Turn off the tap when you're brushing your teeth, washing your hands or shaving.



2. Taking long showers

Showering accounts for approximately 30% of the total water used in the home.

Look, I get it - best thoughts come in the shower. But extra-long showers will cost you a lot of money. Each minute wastes up to 11 litres of water!

So here's a tip that will not only save money (and water) but also will help you enjoy your showers more.

Take your phone or a speaker to the bathroom, pick your favourite song (that's around 3 minutes long), crank it up and jump into the shower. Just make sure you hop out of the shower when the song ends - no cheating!

When taking a shower, turn on the water only long enough to wet your body. Then, turn off the water. Soap your body and shampoo hair. Turn the water back on only long enough to rinse off the soap and the shampoo. Voila - liters of water saved!

Action step:

- Take shorter showers. Try to keep your showers under 3-5 minutes.



3. Leaky taps

Did you know dripping taps and leaking water mixers waste approximately 20,000 liters of water each year? Those leaking taps don't seem like much, but they add up!

A simple washer change can save you up to \$250 over a year – and that's just for one tap

Action step:

- **Check if you have any leaky taps.**
- **Fix your leaky taps.**



4. Inefficient fixtures and appliances

The shower is where over 20% of your household's water is going down the drain. But simply by switching to a water saving head you can save up to 11 litres of water every minute.

To help you choose the most water efficient appliances, Australia has mandatory Water Efficiency Labelling and Standards (WELS).

Labels apply to all showerheads, washing machines, toilets and urinals, dishwashers and some types of taps. They tell you how water efficient a product is: the more stars on the label, the more water-efficient the product.

So if you're on the market for a new water-efficient appliance, choose the one with the most stars on the label.

We have several water-efficient shower heads that we can supply and install. [Click here to check them out.](#)

You can also install aerators on your taps. Aerators mix air with your water. They reduce water flow without affecting pressure.

An aerator can reduce the water flow from over 12 litres per minute down to 6 litres per minute. That's halving the water used from the basin or fixture!

Action steps:

- **Check that you're using water-efficient fixtures and appliances.**
- **Install water-efficient fixtures and appliances.**



5. Water for baths

Who doesn't enjoy taking long, hot baths? It can be very relaxing after a long day at work or an intense workout. But beware – filling up a bath takes a lot of water.

So next time you want to draw up a bath, place the stopper in the drain before turning on the water so you avoid water going down the drain.

Action step:

- **Run only as much water as absolutely necessary for your bath.**



6. Flushing the toilet excessively

This one is pretty self explanatory – there is really no reason to flush it compulsively. Here’s a fun way to remember when to flush:

- ◇ If it’s yellow, let it mellow.
- ◇ If it’s brown, flush it down.

Action step:

- **Reduce the number of times you flush the toilet.**



7. Leaky toilets and toilet cisterns

Do you still hear a trickle in the toilet even after it finished flushing? That leak is costing you water (and money) and it’s probably a very easy fix.

You can also check for a leaking toilet cistern. It’s easy to do: just put food colouring in the cistern and if the colour shows in the toilet bowl without flushing, you’ve got a leak.

Action steps:

- **Check if your toilet is leaking.**
- **Fix your leaky toilet.**



8. Old or inefficient toilet

Toilets really use a lot of water. Got an old toilet? It could be the perfect opportunity to upgrade.

If you purchase a new toilet, consider a dual-flush model. You’ll save up to 9 litres every time you use the half flush instead of the full flush and can save an amazing 80 litres of water every single day.

If your toilet cistern is over 10 years old, it’s probably worth replacing as well – new cisterns use half as much water as the older dual-flush cisterns.

The installation cost of a new cistern could be paid back to you in 6 months with the money saved on your water bill.

We have several water-saving toilets that we can supply and install. [Click here to check them out.](#)

Action step:

- **Check if you have a water-saving toilet.**



9. Wasting water while waiting for the shower to heat up

This is one is for you if:

- ◇ Your shower takes 30 seconds or so to heat up
- ◇ You have house plants
- ◇ You want to prevent water going down the drain

Place a clean bucket in the bathroom to catch the cold shower water and use it for watering your plants.

Action steps:

- **Catch your shower water in a bucket. Check if you have any leaky taps.**
- **Fix your leaky taps.**

Amount of money per year you will save if you implement all the above tips: \$500



STEP 2:

WATER-WASTING MISTAKES YOU COULD BE MAKING WHILE DOING YOUR LAUNDRY



1. Not using a water-efficient washing machine

A good way to save water in the laundry is to install a water-efficient washing machine.

If you're buying a washing machine, choose a water-efficient model with a minimum '4 Star' rating. This will save up to 50 litres a wash in the washing machine and if each cycle is a full load this will save up to 10 litres each wash.

Look for a model with choices of water levels (small, medium, and large load settings). By merely pressing a button, you can save many liters of water per load.

Action step:

- Check that you're using a water-efficient washing machine.
- Install a water-efficient washing machine.



2. Running a half-empty washing machine

Who doesn't love the smell of fresh laundry and clean clothes? But you don't need to wash your clothes after every wear.

And when you do decide to wash your clothes, make sure you have enough for a full load.

If you don't have a fully-loaded washing machine, adjust the load setting to the volume of your washing.

Action step:

- Run your washing machine once you have a full load or adjust settings to suit load.



3. Running the tap while hand washing

If you are hand washing your clothes, make sure to place the stopper in the sink drain and run only the needed amount of water.

Be mindful of how you're using water while hand washing and rinsing clothes.

Action step:

- Don't let the water run continuously while washing

Amount of money per year you will save if you implement all the above tips: \$250

STEP 3:

WATER-WASTING MISTAKES YOU COULD BE MAKING IN YOUR KITCHEN



1. Not using water-efficient appliances

Many new appliances have a Water Efficiency and Labelling Standards label to help you make a good choice.

If you buy a new dishwasher choose a water-efficient model with a minimum '4 Star' rating. A water-efficient dishwasher uses less water than washing your dishes in the sink and if you wait until you have a full load before.

If possible, install aerators in the kitchen water faucets. They will reduce the flow of water through the faucets.

We have several kitchen faucets that we can supply and install. [Click here to check them out.](#)

Action step:

- Check that you have water-efficient appliances.
- Install a water-efficient dishwasher.



2. Running a half-empty dishwasher

Same as with the washing machine, only turn the dishwasher on when it's full. Also make sure you use the right wash settings.

Action step:

- Run your dishwasher only when it is full.



3. Wasting water when running a tap

When you're washing vegetables, collect water in a bowl. You can then use it on your houseplants or garden.

Also remember this tip any time you are waiting for water to heat up or cool down.

Action step:

- Collect water in a bowl when washing vegetables.

Amount of money per year you will save if you implement all the above tips: \$250

STEP 4:

WATER-WASTING MISTAKES YOU COULD BE MAKING IN YOUR YARD



1. Not designing a water-wise garden

If you're designing your garden from scratch, check out ways in which the layout and features will save you time, money and water without compromising your desired lifestyle.

Use drought resistant grasses and plants which can survive on limited amounts of water. The fewer times you must water your yard, the lower your water bill.

Action step:

- Design a water-wise garden



2. Unnecessary watering

This will depend on the type of plants you have, but make sure you don't unnecessarily water your lawn, yard plants, and the vegetable garden.

Another handy tip is to water only in the early morning, late afternoon, or evening. Avoid watering in the heat of the day, when it is windy, or when the sun is shining brightly. Why? Because you will most likely waste a large amount of water through evaporation.

Action step:

- Water your garden only when necessary.



3. Not using a "soaker" hose

Instead of sprinklers consider using a "soaker" hose - it requires less water because the water is concentrated on the soil nearer the roots. And there is also less evaporation.

Action step:

- Use a "soaker" hose rather than a sprinkler, where possible.



4. Not using a pool cover

Believe it or not, you can lose the entire volume of your pool's water over a year simply through evaporation. You can reduce it with a pool cover. So when your swimming pool is not in use, simply cover it to reduce evaporation. This can reduce water loss by as much as 90% and save up to 36,000 litres per year.

Action steps:

- **Buy a pool cover**



5. Hosing paved areas

When it's time to make those paved areas look spick and span at your place, do you still use a hose? Don't remove debris by hosing it off with water – that wastes a lot of water. Make the switch to a broom or blower instead.

Action steps:

- **Use a broom to sweep the garage, sidewalks, and driveway.**



6. Running the water hose while washing the car

Did you know that letting the water hose run gently for a 20-minute car wash uses approximately 300 liters of water?

Turn the water on only for the initial and final rinsings – this could save you quite a tidy sum of money on water over the period of time you own your car.

Here's how to do it:

- Rinse off your car with the water hose first.
- Use low pressure so as not to cause the grit to scratch the finish.
- Then, turn off the water.
- Next, wash your car with a soft cloth or sponge and bucket of water.
- Finally, rinse the car again with the water hose.

You can also leave your car outside when it's raining for a free rainwater car shower!

Action steps:

- **Don't let the water run continuously while you wash the car.**



7. Leaky water pipes

Water leaks under the ground can use over 1 million litres in less than a month.

Locate and repair, as soon as possible, all leaking water pipes detected by visual inspection.

Here's how to do it: look for unexplained dark green patches of grass or a permanently damp area of ground on your property.

An unexplained jump in your water bill may also indicate a leak in your water mains.

You can also check for underground leaks by reading the water meter.

Here's how to do it: Don't use any water in the house for 1 hour and then check the meter reading again. If the meter increased its reading and no water was used in the home, then you most likely have a water leak.

Locate the leak and repair it as soon as possible. The longer you delay repairs, the more water and money you will waste.

Action steps:

- Check if you have any leaking water pipes.
- Get your leaking water pipes fixed.



8. Not using rain water

A properly installed rainwater tank can last for over 20 years and is a great long-term investment if you want to save money on your water bill by using free rain water.

If you have never heard of a rainwater tank, it is a device that collects and maintains harvested rain water.

It's a great way to conserve water that can be used for watering gardens, flushing toilets, in washing machines, and even for drinking.

Action steps:

- Install a rainwater tank.

Amount of money per year you will save if you implement all the above tips: \$500



YOUR WATER-SAVING CHECKLIST

Bathroom

1. Turn off the tap when you're brushing your teeth, washing your hands or shaving.
2. Take shorter showers. Try to keep your showers under 3-5 minutes.
3. Check if you have any leaky taps.
4. Fix your leaky taps.
5. Check that you're using water-efficient fixtures and appliances.
6. Install water-efficient fixtures and appliances
7. Run only as much water as absolutely necessary for your bath.
8. Reduce the number of times you flush the toilet.
9. Check if your toilet is leaking.
10. Fix your leaky toilet.
11. Check if you have a water-saving toilet.
12. Install a water-saving toilet.
13. Catch your shower water in a bucket

Laundry

14. Check that you're using a water-efficient washing machine.
15. Install a water-efficient washing machine.
16. Run your washing machine once you have a full load or adjust settings to suit load
17. Don't let the water run continuously while washing clothes

Kitchen

18. Check that you have water-efficient appliances.
19. Install a water-efficient dishwasher.
20. Run your dishwasher only when it is full.
21. Collect water in a bowl when washing vegetables.

Yard

22. Design a water-wise garden.
23. Water your garden only when necessary.
24. Use a "soaker" hose rather than a sprinkler, where possible.
25. Buy a pool cover.
26. Use a broom to sweep the garage, sidewalks, and driveway.
27. Don't let the water run continuously while you wash the car.
28. Check if you have any leaking water pipes.
29. Get your leaking water pipes fixed.
30. Install a rainwater tank.

Amount of money per year you will save if you implement all the above tips: \$1,500

As our water bills continue to rise and council water restrictions remain in force, do your bit for your community and your wallet by applying some (or all) of these ways to save water.

NEXT STEPS

Now that you got our best water saving tips that will help you avoid wasting water and money..

You might also want to know what your local plumber can do for you.

WHAT CAN YOUR PLUMBER DO FOR YOU?

From the bathroom to the kitchen, and even outside your house, a plumber can help with installations, repairs and maintenance in most areas of your home. They can handle pool & spa plumbing, gas lines for BBQs & ovens, as well as repairs on any plumbing emergency. Below are just some of the many things a plumber can help you with.

IN THE BATHROOM

- INSTALL WATER-SAVING TOILETS
- INSTALL SHOWER, BATH TUBS
- REPAIR CLOGGED OR CONSTANTLY RUNNING TOILETS
- INSTALL SINKS & TAPS
- REPAIR DRIPPING TAPS
- REPAIR CLOGGED SINKS
- REPAIR BURST & LEAKING PIPES

IN THE KITCHEN

- INSTALL DISHWASHER
- INSTALL/REPAIR GARBAGE DISPOSAL
- INSTALL NEW SINKS AND TAPS
- INSTALL ICE MAKER AND WATER LINES TO REFRIGERATOR
- REPAIR LEAKING TAPS
- REPAIR BLOCKED SINKS & CLOGGED DRAINS

IN THE YARD

- HOT WATER SYSTEM REPAIRS & REPLACEMENT
- INSTALL/REPAIR BBQ GAS LINES
- POOL & SPA PLUMBING
- REPAIR BROKEN IRRIGATION SYSTEMS
- REPAIR LEAKING TAPS
- INSTALL/REPAIR SEWER & WATER LATERALS

ARE YOU READY TO SAVE MONEY ON YOUR NEXT WATER BILL?

If you think you might have these issues contributing to your high water bill:

- A water leak underground
- Leaky taps
- An old toilet cistern that looks wasteful
- An inefficient hot water system

Or if you have any other plumbing needs...

Then give us a call today on 1300 390 361 or contact us here

<https://goldcoastplumbingcompany.com.au>

Enjoyed this guide? Check out our blog for more helpful information and resources like this:

<https://goldcoastplumbingcompany.com.au/blog>

We also have special deals on water-saving appliances you can check out here:

<https://gold-coast-plumbing-company.myshopify.com/>

