



Water Information Sheet

We live in the driest inhabited continent on the planet. Yet water use in our homes has increased by 55 percent since 1982. About half of this water is poured on to our gardens, it's used in our bathrooms and toilets, for clothes and dish-washing, in swimming pools and is lost through leaking pipes and plumbing fixtures.

Less rainfall in the Southwest Region of WA coupled with our growing population and careless use of water is leading to severe water shortages that are likely to threaten the health of ecosystems and, as new water resources are accessed, could increase the price of water to the average West Australian household.

Facts about our water:

- Only 3% of the world's water is fresh and only 0.3% is available to humans
- The average West Australian household uses 1259 litres every day, that's enough water to fill ten swimming pools each year
- Just one flush of an inefficient toilet can use up to 11 litres of water
- By the year 2031, Perth is expected to need an extra 150 gigitalitres of water
- In 2001, the Perth dams experienced their lowest stream inflow over a 12 month period on record. This was 80% below the long-term average
- A running tap will use up to 15 litres of water a minute
- A running hose uses 1000 litres of water every hour
- Having a bore does not give you licence to use as much water as you want as bore water does affect the level of the water table. Bores are not appropriate in many parts of Mandurah. For further information on installing a bore in your home, contact the Water and Rivers Commission.

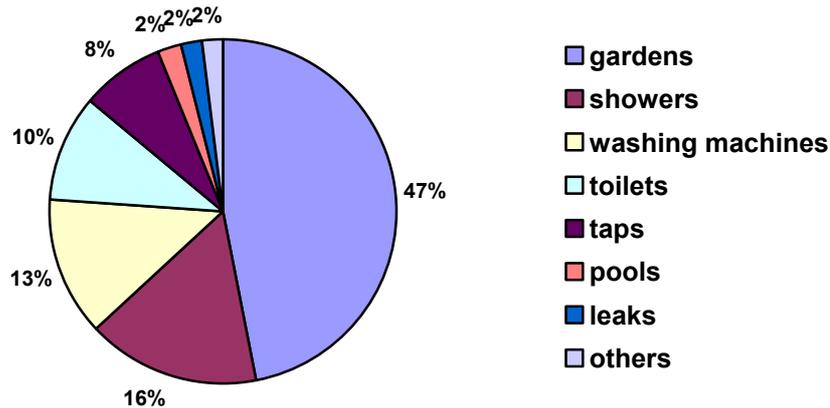


With over 18,000 occupied homes in Mandurah our residential community is using more than 22.6 million litres of water every day.

Water consumption in the home

Unless we find ways to be more careful and efficient with our precious water the levels of water required to support our existing lifestyle in Mandurah will become untenable. So the choices you make about using water in your home and garden will make a difference. To make the most impact on your household water use you need to target garden watering (which is by far, the greatest single drain on water at 47 percent of total water use) followed by bathroom and washing use:

Water consumption in the home



Source: *Living Smart*, 2005

The amount of water you use does depend on how many people you have in your home and the structural characteristics of your home e.g., rainwater gathering and grey-water recycling systems. A significant amount also depends on the behavioural choices you make in your home. Simple behavioural changes will make a difference to your water consumption the amount of greenhouse gases you produce and your water bills.

You can save water:

- Install a low flow shower head, have shorter showers and turn off the tap whilst brushing your teeth
- Only run full loads in dishwashers and washing machines
- Minimise water use in the garden
- Install or make a dual-flush toilet
- Reuse grey water on the garden

For further information on what you can do visit www.watercorporation.com.au or www.savewater.com.au

Source: *Living Smart*, Action Guide for a Sustainable Community www.livingsmart.org.au