

Household Water Use Calculator



me!bourne

How much water does your household use?

To help you understand how much water you use in your household and ways that you can use less water, the City of Melbourne has developed this Water Saving Calculator.

So grab your calculators and start adding up those litres!

1. Do you have a dual flush toilet?

If YES, your household uses only:

5 litres x 35 (flushes per week) x (enter number of people in your household) =

If NO, your household uses:

11 litres x 35 (flushes per week) x (enter number of people in your household) =

Dual flush toilets use 5 litres of water on average instead of 11 litres used by older, single flush toilets. (We have used an average of 35 flushes per person per week in the house).

2. Do you have a leaking toilet in your household?

Sometimes it is hard tell, so place some food colouring in the cistern and wait a while to see if it leaks into the bowl.

If YES, on average you are wasting 308 litres per week (enter figure in box)

If NO, you are wasting 0 litres per week from your toilet (enter figure in box)

3. How many minutes in total do household members spend in the shower on an average day?

(Add the minutes together - eg 7 minutes for Kim + 16 minutes for Andre = 23 minutes)

4. Do you have a low water flow AAA rated showerhead?

If YES, your household will use only:

7.5 litres x 7 days x (enter answer from question 3) =

If NO, your household will use:

12 litres x 7 days x (enter answer from question 3) =

AAA rated showerheads use only 7.5 litres of water per minute on average, instead of 12 litres of water per minute used by conventional showerheads.

5. How many baths does your household have each week?

This will use approximately:

96 litres x (enter answer from the above question) =

6. How many loads of washing does your household do in an average week?

7. Do you have a water efficient AAAA rated front loading washing machine?

If YES, your household will use only:

40 litres x (enter answer from question 6) =

If NO, your household will use:

130 litres x (enter answer from question 6) =

AAAA rated washing machines use 40 litres of water per load instead of 130 litres of water per load used by top loading machines

8. Overall, do you try to save water in your kitchen?
For example: do you rinse vegetables in a shallow sink of water? Have you installed water efficient taps? Do you only run the dishwasher when it's full? Do you rinse dishes before putting them in the dishwasher?
 If YES, your household will use 473 litres per week (enter figure in box)
 If NO, your household will use 525 litres per week (enter figure in box)

9. Do you have a garden and if so do you try to save water with methods such as drip irrigation, tap timers, mulching and water efficient plants?
 If YES, on average your household uses 651 litres a week on the garden (enter figure in box)
 If NO, on average your household uses 1116 litres a week on the garden (enter figure in box)
 If you have no garden, you will use 0 litres a week for gardening (enter figure in box)

10. Do you, and those in your household, leave the tap running when brushing your teeth?
 This wastes 5 litres per minute
 If NO, you are only using an average of 1 litre of water each time.
 Its estimated that each week each person uses 14 litres for teeth brushing.
 Your household uses:
 number of people in your household x 14 litres =
 If YES, for how many minutes in total will the tap run in your household each day for cleaning teeth?
 Therefore your household uses:
 5 litres x 7 days x (enter number of minutes from above question) =

11. Do you have any leaking taps? Leaking taps can waste up to 200 litres of water a day.
 If YES, you use up to (7 days x 200 litres) x (enter number of leaking taps) =
Instead of 200 litres, you can modify the above equation by using an average of 100, 50 or 20 litres a day if you think you have a small leak. If no, proceed to next question.

12. Do you apply water conservation measures for other general water uses that occur in households?
For example: Do you minimise using water when cleaning bathrooms and kitchens, cleaning paths, using garden water features, efficiency of air conditioning and water heaters, children playing under hoses, washing cars and hand washing clothes?
 If YES, your household will use an average of 670 litres each week (enter figure in box)
 If NO, your household will use an average 1100 litres of water each week (enter figure in box)

13. Does your household have a rainwater tank, or a greywater system for re-using water?
 If NO, proceed to question 14
 If YES, on average your household saves 868 litres a week (enter figure in box)

14. Have you changed your household's water usage over the past few years due to increased awareness of water scarcity?
Changes to your water practices (such as those suggested above) can reduce your household's water use by at least 5%.
 If YES, on average your household saves 217 litres a week (enter figure in box)

Total water usage
 (ADD your figures in the blue outlined boxes)

Total water savings
 (ADD your figures in the grey shaded boxes)

Total water used in your household per week
 (total water usage - total water savings)

Total water used by each person
 (divide total water use by the number of household members)



How did your household go?

Water Consumption per person

< 1200 litres per week:

Great Work. Your household is using water wisely. Share your knowledge with neighbours, friends and family! 750 litres a week would be exceptional!

1200 - 1600 litres per week:

On the way. There are still plenty of ways for you to save water and at the same time save money in your home. Please read the City of Melbourne's *WaterMark* strategy for tips on water saving.

> 1600 litres per week:

You use a lot of water. Please read about water conservation in *WaterMark* and give Council a call if you need some extra assistance.

This Water Saving Calculator has been designed solely for education purposes for residents of the City of Melbourne. The water use has been averaged in many questions. These averages have been derived from City of Melbourne's best water use data available to date and aims to keep the Water Saving Calculator simple.

The City of Melbourne can assist you in identifying ways to save water. Please refer to *WaterMark - Towards Sustainable Water Management by 2020*, visit www.melbourne.vic.gov.au or call Council Hotline on 9658 9658.

Useful Contacts

Melbourne Water

www.melbournewater.com.au

Customer Service: 131 722

100 Wellington Parade

East Melbourne VIC 3002

City West Water

www.citywestwater.com.au

Customer Service: 131 691

247-251 St Albans Road

Sunshine VIC 3020

South East Water

www.sewl.com.au

Customer Service: 131 694

20 Corporate Drive

Moorabbin VIC 3189

Yarra Valley Water

www.yvw.com.au

Customer Service: 131 721

Private Bag 1

Mitcham VIC 3132

Australian Water Association

www.awa.asn.au

Customer Service: (02) 9413 1288

PO Box 388

Artarmon NSW 1570

Centre for Education and Research in Environmental Strategies (CERES)

www.ceres.org.au

Customer Service: 9387 2609

8 Lee Street

Brunswick East VIC 3057

Green Plumbers Association

www.greenplumbers.com.au

Customer Service: 9329 9622

525 King Street

West Melbourne VIC 3003

Sustainable Gardening Australia

www.sgaonline.org.au

Customer Service: 9850 5155

6 Manningham Road West

Bulleen VIC 3105

Savewater!

www.savewater.com.au

Private Bag 1

Mitcham VIC 3132

Vic Water

www.vicwater.org.au

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June 2003
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