

WaterWise in the Kitchen

Imagine 1000 one-litre milk cartons filled with water sitting on your doorstep each morning! Astonishingly, that's how much water is used at home each day by the average Queensland family of four.

Change your habits

At the sink

- Use a plug or a bowl – a running tap wastes water

At the dishwasher

- Wait for a full load
- Think about the cycle – choosing an efficient dishwasher cycle saves water and power
- When buying a dishwasher choose a dishwasher with a high water efficiency rating (three stars or better)

Tip for the kitchen: A running kitchen tap uses about 12 litres of water a minute. Wash fruit and vegetables in a shallow sink of water and save around 15 litres every time. Or use a plastic bowl in your sink and then tip the used water on your plants.

Dishwashers

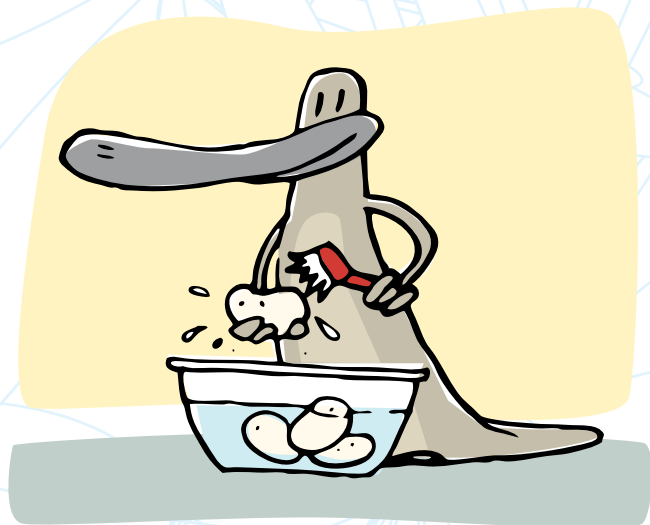
- Dishwashers use up to 20 litres of water per load
- Wait for a full load – running a full load is more water-efficient than washing dishes by hand
- Use the 'rinse and hold' cycle or use a minimal amount of water for rinsing

Choosing a dishwasher

- Look for a water efficiency label for a clear guide to the most water-efficient machine

Garbage disposal units

Garbage-disposal units use about 50 litres of water per day and send a lot of extra rubbish into the sewers. Instead, compost vegetable and fruit scraps and use them in the garden.



factsheet

Tip for the kitchen: *Keep a bottle of drinking water in the refrigerator. Running the tap until it is cool enough to drink is wasteful.*

You can do more

Check for leaks

- ▶ If you have a water meter, turn all taps off before you go to bed one night and take a meter reading. Check the meter next morning before any water is used. If the meter reading has advanced you may have a leaking pipe, tap or toilet cistern. Locate the problem and repair it or call a licensed plumber
- ▶ A drip from a tap can waste 30-200 litres of water per day. Repair leaking taps, turn taps off properly and check washers for wear

Use water saving devices

- ▶ Tap aerator devices are inexpensive and can reduce water flow by 50 per cent. Talk to your plumber about other ways to slow the flow from taps
- ▶ When replacing appliances and taps, choose fittings with high water efficiency ratings. The more stars, the more efficient
- ▶ From 1 July 2006, new appliances receive a water efficiency label. Buy equipment with at least three stars
- ▶ Compare appliance ratings at www.waterrating.gov.au
- ▶ Look for a high WELS (Water Efficiency Labelling and Standards) rating

