



## Waterwise toilet solutions

Toilets account for around one quarter of water use in the home. A single flush cistern can use more than 50,000 litres each year. A modern, water efficient dual flush toilet will use only around 15-20,000 litres.

A leaking toilet, where the water trickles continuously from the cistern in to the bowl, can waste around 9,000 litres of water a year.

### WHAT CAN I DO?

There are several easy ways to save toilet water:

- Check for leaks.
- Convert to low flush.
- Use the half flush.
- Plumb in a rainwater tank.

Install two low flush toilets  
and save each year.



### HOW DO I DO IT?

#### Check for leaks using the dye test

- Remove the toilet cistern lid.
- Add several drops of food colouring (enough to give the water in the cistern a strong colour) and do not flush. Return and check the water in the toilet bowl after 30 minutes. If the water down in the bowl is becoming coloured then the cistern is leaking.
- If you have a leak it is possible to replace the washer inside the toilet cistern (hardware stores sell toilet washer sets often with step by step instruction on the back). It can be a tricky job to remove the washer from under the flushing mechanism, so you may prefer to hire a plumber to fix it.



**TANYA HA**, an expert in environmental living and the author of *Greenology* and *The Australian Green Consumer Guide* provides advice on saving water in your home



Government of **Western Australia**  
Department for **Planning and Infrastructure**

## Convert to low flush - Buy a "4 star" or "5 star" toilet

- Replacing one old toilet can save more than 20,000 litres of water each year and \$15 off your water bill.
- Research the water efficiency of toilet sets on the market by logging onto [www.waterrating.gov.au](http://www.waterrating.gov.au) or looking at the star rating sticker in the hardware/plumbing store.
- Choose the model that you want and book a plumber to install the new toilet set (it is best to replace the cistern and bowl because the manufacturer matches the flush to the design to get best results).
- A new "4 star" toilet set, plumbed in, will cost around \$600 but will deliver savings on your water bill for years to come.

When looking for a plumber, be sure to choose an endorsed Waterwise plumber. See [www.watercorporation.com.au](http://www.watercorporation.com.au) under: "Being waterwise". "Waterwise specialists" for a list of waterwise plumbers.

## Use the half flush

Using the half flush will save water. Getting into the habit can be a challenge so try putting a reminder notice on top of the cistern.

\*Rebates are correct at June 2009.

## Plumb in a rainwater tank

Rainwater tanks can be plumbed into the toilet and laundry. A minimum tank size of 2,000 litres is required for an effective supply and to qualify for the \$400 rebate and 4,000 litres for the \$500 rebate\*. Such a system must be installed by a licensed plumber. Refer to the Living Smart guide on rain water tanks at [www.transport.wa.gov.au/livingsmart](http://www.transport.wa.gov.au/livingsmart).

## WHY?

Conventional toilets use up to 12 litres of water with every flush. A "5 star" toilet can use as little as 2.3 litres on the 'half flush'. By making the change you can save thousands of litres of water per year and reduce your water bill.

## OTHER SOLUTIONS

You may find additional advice on ways to reduce water flow in old toilets. The following methods are excluded under Western Australian Health regulations:

- Controlled flush: placing a special "DIY" balance or "toilet weight" on the flushing mechanism to make the flush shut off sooner.
- DIY Low Flush: Placing a full bottle of water into a 12 litre cistern to "displace" some of the water and reduce flush.