



Dual flush toilets

A single flush toilet can use up to 12 litres of water in one flush. Using a dual flush toilet means you use less water for the full flush and can also choose to flush only half the water in the cistern.

A 6/3 litre dual flush toilet uses 6 litres of water for a full flush and 3 litres of water for a half flush. The 6/3 litre toilet has a Water Efficiency Labeling and Standards (WELS) rating of 3-stars. There are now also 4-star and 5-star rated dual flush toilets on the market. You can find out which toilets are water-efficient at the WELS website. Look for toilets with at least a 3-star rating.

If you have a single flush toilet here are a few ways you can reduce the flush volume:

- install a water-saving device (cistern weight or toilet cistern converter) that lets you control the toilet flush. The water flow stops when you take your finger off the button; or
- place a displacement device, like a plastic bottled filled with pebbles and water, into your cistern safely away from the operating mechanism, to save around one litre per flush.

A leaking toilet can waste a lot of water. A slow, barely visible leak can waste more than 4,000 litres of water a year. Visible, constant leaks (with a hissing sound) can waste around 95,000 litres a year. To check your toilet for leaks, place a few drops of biodegradable food colouring into the cistern and wait for 30 minutes. If you have a leaking toilet, you will see coloured water in the toilet bowl, and it's time to call a plumber. Flush immediately after this test so that you don't stain the bowl.

WATER EFFICIENCY LABELLING AND STANDARDS

A new national compulsory Water Efficiency Labelling and Standards (WELS) Scheme has replaced the voluntary 'AAAAA' labelling scheme.

On 1 July 2006, it became mandatory across Australia for showers; clothes washing machines; dishwashers; toilet equipment; urinal equipment; and tap equipment intended for use over kitchen sinks, bathroom basins, laundry tubs or ablution troughs, to carry a WELS Water Rating label when they are offered for sale. Flow controllers may also carry a label, but this is not mandatory.

The WELS Water Rating label has:

- A star rating that gives a quick comparative assessment of the model's water efficiency; and
- an estimate of the water consumption of the product.



WATER RESOURCES STRATEGY

Think water, act water is the ACT Government's strategy for sustainable water use and management. It aims to reduce Canberra's per person water consumption by 12 per cent by 2013 and 25 per cent by 2023.

Think water, act water provides a comprehensive framework for a partnership between the community, industry and government in managing, using and conserving the water resources of the region.

It includes an extensive range of measures, which will ensure water supply security for the ACT, protect and improve ecological values associated with our waterways, and improve the amenity of urban areas.

The strategy outlines a range of initiatives to be put in place to assist Canberrans to increase water efficiency around the home and garden.

WATER EFFICIENCY INCENTIVE PROGRAMS

You may wish to consider the home and garden water efficiency programs offered as part of the ACT Government's water strategy, *Think water, act water*.

Details of all ACT Government water efficiency incentive programs are available from www.thinkwater.act.gov.au

MORE INFORMATION

For more information on water issues, water efficiency rebates and *Think water, act water* initiatives:

Ph: 13 22 81

Email: WaterResources@act.gov.au

Website: www.thinkwater.act.gov.au

For more information on the *ACT Water and Sewerage Act 2000* and its regulations, contact the ACT Planning and Land Authority on (02) 6207 6261

For more information on the WELS Scheme visit www.waterrating.gov.au