



## Taps, aerators and flow regulators

While taps only use an average of about 2 per cent of the water consumed in a household, every drop you can save makes a difference.

There are several ways of saving water when using taps:

- Tap aerators break up the solid flow of water, effectively adding air to the water flow. This results in less water passing out of the tap each second. Aerators come in a number of sizes and varying flow rates. They only cost a small amount and can be fitted by any handyman.
- Special valves and flow regulators restrict the diameter of the water flow path, so that less water can come out through the tap each second.

Aerators and flow regulators can reduce water flowing from taps by up to 50%.

Special valves and flow regulators may also help in reducing 'water hammer' (a shock wave of high pressure in the pipes, caused by the sudden closing of a valve). Caution should be used when deciding to purchase these valves as they will affect the water pressure coming from the taps which may affect watering systems, showers, etc.

Some valves and flow regulators may need to be installed by a plumber. Seek advice from your plumber or local plumbing supply shop, if you are considering these devices.

- Dripping or leaking taps can waste thousands of litres of water a year. Washers can be replaced by any handyman and are very cheap to buy.

### REGULATIONS

Under the *ACT Water and Sewerage Act 2000* and its regulations, when plumbing work involving the installation of, or work on, a tap for a kitchen or laundry sink or any other basin inside a building is undertaken for a residential property, the outlet of the tap must have a maximum flow capacity of not more than nine litres per minute.

### 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](http://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](mailto:WaterResources@act.gov.au)

Website: [www.thinkwater.act.gov.au](http://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](http://www.waterrating.gov.au)