

# CITY OF BELMONT

## How Can You Help Our Water Problem?

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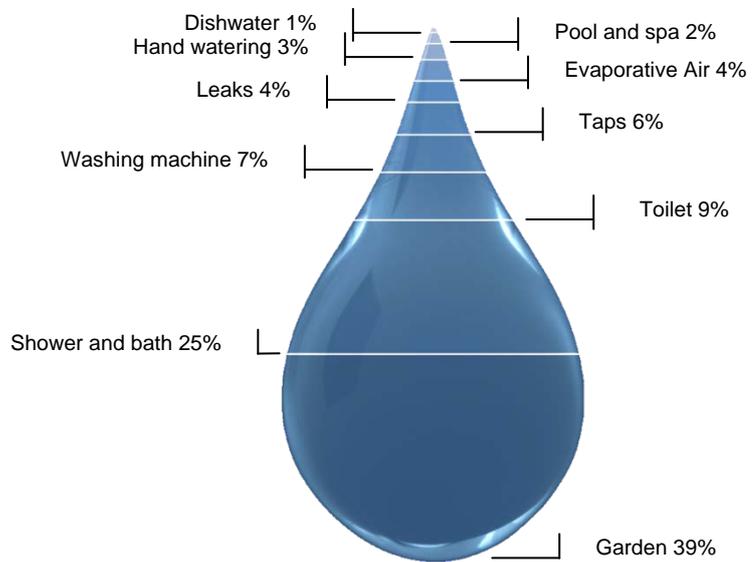
Rainfall decline across Perth and the South West of Western Australia has put significant pressure on our water resources, including groundwater and water from dams, which supply Perth's drinking water. Whilst the Water Corporation and the Government of Western Australia explore options to secure Perth's drinking water, the City of Belmont and its residents can do our part in securing water for the future.

### Where is water used at home?

On average, we each use 132,000 litres every year (Water Corporation, 2013) which is the equivalent to four households using the same amount of water which is held in an Olympic sized swimming pool.

Most of this water is used in the garden (39%), with the largest proportion of water used inside the home being for showering and bathing (25%).

Other essential items, such as our Taps, Washing Machines and Toilets, only use a collective 22%, and most efficient non-essential items, such as Dishwashers, Swimming Pools, Spas, and Evaporative Air Conditioners, use a total of 7%. We do however lose about 4% of our water to leaks around the home.



### How can I save water in the home?



Ensure your toilet is dual flush and not leaking. Avoid flushing tissues.



Fix leaking taps or replace with WELS rated tap



Only run dishwashers on a full load



Reduce your showering time and replace your shower head with a WELS rated fitting



Choose WELS rated fittings and appliances to replace old ones



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## ***Garden Irrigation is the largest use of water in the home!***

Irrigation of gardens comprises 39% of water use in residential homes. Altering water use in the garden offers the greatest opportunity to reduce water and is easily achieved through smart garden designs. Using native drought tolerant plants can assist in reducing water, whilst creating a tranquil garden experience which will still invite birds, provide shade and a cooling environment for you to enjoy. The most important part is choosing plants which have similar water needs and ensuring that your home irrigation system is free from leaks, is efficient and is programmed properly.

Select plants with a low water demand; local, native species are adapted to our soil types and climate

Only water on your rostered watering days between 6pm and 9am

Select Waterwise lawn varieties that minimise water and fertiliser use

Install a sprinkler system that is efficient and flexible



Use mulch and soil wetting agents and add organic matter to the soil

During summer water your garden during early morning, for 10 to 15 minutes only. There is no need to water in winter

Use non-planting treatments such as paving and mulches

Group plants to allow for efficient watering, based on their water requirements (or how much water they typically need)

## ***Want more information?***

- Contact the City of Belmont on 9477 7257 or visit [www.belmont.wa.gov.au](http://www.belmont.wa.gov.au) to see what the City is doing in its Parks and Buildings to use water efficiently
- Visit the Water Corporation's website [www.watercorporation.com.au](http://www.watercorporation.com.au) where there are more great tips on saving water. Try out the Water Corporation's interactive Water Use Calculator and search the database for Waterwise plants
- Visit the Department of Water's website [www.water.wa.gov.au](http://www.water.wa.gov.au) for information on Perth's groundwater and water regulations, including accessing groundwater
- Want to know how water use fixtures and devices in your home are rated for efficiency, try and find them on the Australian Water Efficiency Labelling and Standards (WELS) website [www.waterrating.gov.au](http://www.waterrating.gov.au)
- If getting some landscaping done, plumbing or irrigation repairs, ensure you engage a Waterwise Specialist and look for their Waterwise specialist certification

