



Household Water Audit

Saving water saves money for you as a householder and ratepayer. Every litre you save per day is a litre that didn't have to be processed for use, and processed for discharge into the harbour, where we fish and swim. More than 50,000 residents are on town water supply in Whangarei District. If we could all save 1litre a day, that would mean 50,000litres of water retained in natural ecosystems as well as saving energy and money. Water conservation means reducing the load on infrastructure, so it lasts longer. It also reduces impact on life in our harbour.

You can use your household water meter to monitor your daily water use and check for leaks.

1. Find your water meter! It's under that blue plastic lid labelled WATER, usually by your front gate.

2. You can use this table below to keep a record of your readings for a week and work out your total water use per family and per person.

Date	Meter Reading	Litres used
Monday		
Tuesday		
Wednesday		
Thursday		
Friday		
Saturday		
Sunday		
Total for the week		Per person =

3. Each day subtract the previous days reading from the current days reading to work out the quantity used over the last 24 hours – remember, red numbers are litres and black record cubic metres, m³, which represents 1000L.

(The average Northlander uses 160L per day, the average Aucklander uses 230L per day and the average American uses 540L per day!)

4. Look at all the different ways your household uses water – toilet, bath, washing machine, dishwasher, pool and more. Decide which item is your biggest user of water by recording how many times your family uses each water item in a day and multiply this by the number of litres the item uses, (use the table over the page as a guide). For example, if you decide your toilet is the biggest user, multiply the number of flushes in a day by the quantity of water the cistern holds – old cisterns hold 10L, new – 6L.

Water Item	Litres used	Number of uses in a day	Total litres
Toilet	6L full flush 3L half flush		
Outside hose	9L per minute		
Washing machine	65L front loading 100L top loading		
Dishwasher	25–60L (depends on model)		
Shower	9L per minute		
Tap	As above		
Totals			

5. Now you know which watery item uses the most water in a day, this could be a great place to start your water, (and money) saving.

Here are some ideas to start you off:

- ④ Install a low flow shower head – they actually still give you a great shower experience whilst saving you 5L per minute.
- ④ Mulch your garden with organic materials like grass clippings and newspaper – this reduces the amount needed for watering by 70%, saving 6L per minute.
- ④ Install a new, low water toilet cistern – or put a full, 1L bottle of water into your current cistern and save a litre per flush. This can save the average family between 20 – 100L per day, (assuming 5 flushes per person).
- ④ Only flush number two's – can save between 48 – 80L per day.
- ④ Check and fix leaks and drips.
- ④ Turn off the tap when cleaning your teeth, saves 32L per day.
- ④ Invest in a pool cover to prevent evaporation, saves heaps.

6. Keep reading your meter to see how much water your household is saving.

7. Track your water bills to see how much money you are saving and buy a yummy fruit tree with the dollars!

Here is a place to write your families water saving strategy:

My water saving commitment:

From (date)

Signed (name)

Congratulations! Saving water is a direct environmental action.