

Conserving water is one of the most effective ways to help protect the environment and make the best use of our existing water resources.



There are many ways to reduce water use in the home garden.

## In the Garden

- ❖ Use a trigger hose or watering can to water plants.
- ❖ Collect rainwater using buckets or a tank.
- ❖ Monitor the moisture in your garden using your fingers, or an inexpensive moisture meter. This will help prevent overwatering.
- ❖ Do the watering early, so the garden can absorb it before the warmest part of the day.
- ❖ Check nutrient levels in the soil. More water may not be necessarily what your garden needs.
- ❖ As the seasons change, monitor and adjust the amount of water applied.
- ❖ Drought proof plants by watering longer, less often.

## Planting

Keep planted areas dense and consolidated.

Before planting, prepare the soil with water crystals so plants can make the most of the water.

Group together plants that have similar water requirements, this can prevent overwatering of neighbouring plants.

Use a windbreak to protect plants from wind and also reduce the amount of water lost through evaporation.

Planning your garden for the climate you live in will save replacing plants that aren't suited and ensure optimum water use.

Consider natives in your garden to add colour and for their hardy nature. They can tolerate low nutrient soils and will attract birds into your garden.



**Habitat for Wildlife** is a program for residential properties.

Benefits of joining include access to free information, resources, workshops and a new social network.

Visit the Council's Environment web page to keep updated with new information and activities.



## Mulching



Mulches can prevent up to 73 percent of evaporation loss and they are one of the cheapest and easiest ways to make the most of water in the garden.

Mulch also keeps soil at a more constant temperature, which is less stressful for plants. By mulching you can:

- ❖ Reduce water loss from soil.
- ❖ Control soil erosion.
- ❖ Decrease the amount of plant material going to landfill.
- ❖ Suppress weed growth by 50 to 70 percent.
- ❖ Increase biological activity in the soil – especially worms and good microbes.
- ❖ Improve plant health and soil structure over time.
- ❖ Give your garden an immediate facelift, with a natural appearance and soft surface.

## Composting



Compost is natural, inexpensive and good for the environment. By using food scraps and garden vegetation as compost, you:

- ❖ Improve soil quality and garden vitality.
- ❖ Use less water in the garden.
- ❖ Recycle valuable nutrients and reduce the use of artificial fertilisers.
- ❖ Prevent food and garden waste from going to landfill.

Compost your green waste and return this rich material to the soil.



## Lawns & Hard surfaces

- ❖ Keep lawn areas to a minimum.
- ❖ Leave the grass areas 3-4cm in length after mowing to reduce water loss from evaporation.
- ❖ Direct hard surface drainage (e.g. patios and driveways) onto lawn and garden areas instead of the storm water system.
- ❖ Use a broom or rake rather than a hose to clean paths, paved areas and decks.
- ❖ Don't water your driveway and footpaths, as they won't grow!
- ❖ Train your lawn to use less water by letting the soil dry out sometime in spring. This encourages roots to grow deeper and makes watering more effective.
- ❖ Wash the car (and animals!) on the lawn. This reduces the amount of runoff and nutrients into the stormwater systems and fertilises the lawn at the same time.

## Water Restrictions

Council implements water restrictions when water supply storage drops below key capacity levels.

Please check Councils website or contact council for information on current restrictions.

e: [wscmail@wsc.nsw.gov.au](mailto:wscmail@wsc.nsw.gov.au)  
w: [www.wsc.nsw.gov.au](http://www.wsc.nsw.gov.au)  
p: (02) 4868 0888  
f: (02) 4869 1203  
Civic Centre, Elizabeth St.  
Moss Vale, NSW 2577  
September 2015  
Document No: ES302

[www.wsc.nsw.gov.au](http://www.wsc.nsw.gov.au)



## Tips for Saving Water in Your Garden



[www.wsc.nsw.gov.au](http://www.wsc.nsw.gov.au)

