

CONSERVING OUR WATER



DO YOUR PART, BE WATER SMART

Masterton District Council is committed to preserving and enhancing our district's natural environment to create a better future for our people – this includes managing water demand.

We've worked with the Greater Wellington Regional Council to better understand how we can balance our water consumption while preserving the health of our rivers.

This summer there will be some changes to how we manage water use during our driest periods. It means there may be some days when you're asked not to water your garden. When things get a bit dry we need to place priority on water needed for drinking and sanitation – unfortunately our gardens need to become less of a priority in these times. Keep an eye on our website, social media channels and local papers to stay up to date with current restrictions over summer.

We know not watering your gardens may be a big ask for some people, so we've put together some handy tips and tricks that can help you save water both in your home and in your garden.

IN YOUR HOME

- Turn the tap off while brushing your teeth.
- Take shorter showers, or switch off water in between soaping and shampooing.
- Save and use cold water, collected while waiting for running water to heat up in the kitchen or bathroom.
- Don't pre-rinse dishes before they go in the dishwasher.
- Start the dishwasher and washing machine only when you have a full load.
- Put the plug in the sink when shaving or washing hands, dishes or vegetables, and run just enough water for what you're doing.
- Fix any leaky taps, toilets and showers. Also fix dripping garden taps.
- Install dual-flush toilets instead of single flush toilets when renovating.
- Don't use your toilet as a rubbish bin; it takes a lot more water to flush down sanitary waste, cigarette butts, food leftovers, etc.
- Install a shower flow-saver disc to your existing shower to not only reduce the excess flow of water but also your heating bill.
- Use water-efficient appliances, bathroom fittings and tap-ware. The "star" rating stickers indicate the water-efficiency, and there can be large differences in water use between products, so make sure to buy or upgrade to water-efficient when possible.

**MASTERTON
DISTRICT COUNCIL**

TE KAUNIHERA Ā-ROHE O WHAKAORI

OUTSIDE YOUR HOME

- Use a hose with a trigger to control the water flow and the start-stop action. It also helps direct water without wasting any.
- Turn the tap off when you're finished.
- Use a broom to sweep hard surfaces like paths and driveways instead of trying to hose down leaves and twigs.
- Use a bucket and sponge instead of a hose to wash your car, and where possible, wash your car on the lawn to prevent soapy water from entering the street drains and into streams and harbours.

SAVE WATER IN YOUR GARDEN

- Switch to drought-tolerant plants today to cope with dry summer weather and watering restrictions. Nandinas, callistemons, flower carpet roses and succulents can be great options.
- Recycle bath/shower water or water used in your washing machine (also called greywater) on the garden, but only on plants that are not going to be eaten. Greywater should not be stored and should be used immediately to prevent disease.
- Group your plants into high or low water users to develop an efficient watering system.
- Use mulch to retain moisture in the soil and to protect from drying effects of wind and sun. Mulching also helps keep weeds out.
- Weed your garden regularly as weeds compete for available moisture.
- Leaf cover and lawn clippings left on the lawn serve as a good mulch to provide shade, slow water loss, conserve moisture and help preserve nutrients in the soil.
- Test soil moisture every 4-7 days during dry weather conditions, and only water if needed.
- Don't let the sun and wind strip your plants of their moisture. Water your garden on calm days during the cool hours – early morning or evening – to avoid rapid evaporation.
- Water your garden low and slow – plants take up moisture through their feeder roots and low, slow watering by hand is the best way to get it there. Moveable sprinklers are the least water effective.
- Deep soak your plants to encourage feeder roots to grow deeply in search of water instead of sprinkling, which encourages shallow roots.
- Avoid over-watering your plants as it encourages fungus, root rot, rusts, mildew and black-spot.



MASTERTON
DISTRICT COUNCIL

TE KAUNIHERA Ā-ROHE O WHAKAORI