

How To Reduce Your Water Consumption.

Basin

- Never brush teeth or wash hands, dishes, plates etc. under a running tap. Always use a plug or catch the waste water for re-use.
- Never run a tap wastefully.
- Regularly inspect taps for drips and repair defective taps, dripping tap (1 drip per second) could waste up to 30 l a day (that is equivalent to 10 000 l a year!)
- Replace tap washers regularly and fit tap aerators to restrict and spread the flow, this saves water yet feels like you are using the same amount of water.

Toilet

- Never flush a toilet unnecessarily (if it's yellow let it mellow, if it's brown flush it down).
- Always use water saving devices in toilet cisterns to minimize flush volumes.
- Regularly inspect toilet flushing mechanisms for water tightness, internal overflowing and repair defects promptly.

Dishwashing (excluding dishwasher)

- Try to wash dishes only once or twice a day.

Garden/ outdoor

- Re-use shower, bath and dish water on your garden as much as possible.
- On watering days, don't water your garden between 10:00 and 17:00.
- Mulch gardens to retain water.
- Don't wash a car with a hosepipe, use two buckets.

Bath & Shower

- Take a shower of about 3 minutes using "water wise" shower nozzle and catch as much water as possible for use in the toilet.
- Never run a deep bath, share bath water and then re-use the bath water to flush the toilet or water the garden.

Washing machine

- Only use the washing machine on full load.

Geyser

- Regularly inspect for geyser overflows and repair defects promptly.

FREE BASIC CLEAN WATER AND WASTE WATER (SEWAGE) SERVICES

Every month you are supplied with 6 000 litres (6 kilolitres) of clean water and 4 200 litres (4,2 kilolitres) of waste water (sewage) is removed free of charge in accordance with national policy.

INDIGENT GRANT

Where the municipal value of your property is less than R100,000 you also have a R20 Indigent Grant credited to your account.

VISIBLE AND AUDIBLE LEAKS

Mostly you can see or hear a water leak. You can see a dripping tap or pipe. A toilet cistern that is continuously leaking makes a loud noise.

IDENTIFY LEAKS THAT YOU ARE NOT AWARE OF

Some leaks are more difficult to notice e.g. a slow leak into the toilet bowl. If you look closely you will notice it. Then there are underground or non-visible leaks.

You can confirm these leaks by using the water meter.

- Close all taps and inform everyone in the house not to use water until you tell them to.
- Wait 30 minutes to ensure the geyser and toilet cisterns are full.
- Read the water meter. If the red numbers are moving then you have a water leak.

If there is a very slow leak the smallest red number will move very slowly. You may need to not use water for a few hours to pick this up.

If you have an underground leak call a qualified or restricted plumber to come and repair it.

REPAIRING WATER LEAKS

Many water leaks are fairly easy to fix as long as you have had some training. If you have not had any training it is better to call a qualified or restricted plumber.

Be sure that you close the stopcock (the tap that closes the main water supply to your property) before you do any water leaks repairs. In any event, as soon as a leak appears you should have closed the stopcock so that you do not waste water and end up with a high water and waste water (sewage) bill at the end of the month.

Leaking taps

Tap drips continuously despite being in the closed position.

This usually requires the washer to be replaced.

The steps are slightly different depending on whether you have a brass or plastic tap.

Steps for replacing a tap washer:

1. Close the property stopcock
2. Open the tap fully.
3. Unscrew the cover (brass taps).
4. Unscrew the spindle.
5. Remove the washer.

Note: Make sure you have the correct washer-size for the tap.

6. Fit the washer.
7. Reinstall the spindle.
8. Screw down the cover (brass taps).
9. Close the tap, open the water supply stopcock and check for leaks again.

Leaking toilet cisterns

Make sure that you understand the difference between the manufacturers' makes before you attempt to fix a toilet cistern. If in doubt, call a qualified or restricted plumber. Close the property stopcock before doing repairs.

1. Incorrect adjustment of the float arm

Water flows over the overflow because the float arm is adjusted too high.

You must be careful not to break the plastic socket that fits into the float valve. Hold the float arm with one hand while bending the end with the float (ball) slightly downwards. To be sure you do not break the plastic socket, take the whole float arm off by unscrewing the float valve.

If the arm is fitted with an adjusting nut, turn the nut to lower the float.

2. Float arm is missing

Water flows continuously through the float valve.

The float arms of the manufacturers differ so make sure that you have the correct float arm. Put the correct float arm in position and fit the split pin.

3. Replacing float washer

Water flows through the float valve even when the arm is held in the position that should close the float valve.

Different manufacturers use different mechanisms. Take the float valve along with you when you purchase a float washer to ensure that you get the correct one. The supplier can fit the new washer for you at the store.

4. Float valve is missing

Make sure you replace the float valve with the correct one for that cistern type.

5. Flush valve washer has perished

Water flows into the toilet bowl even when the water level is below the overflow pipe.

Remove the flush valve by holding the part that is fixed to the cistern and turning the top part of the flush valve. Be careful not to break the mechanism.

Do not apply a lot of force. If you cannot remove the top part of the flush valve call a qualified or a restricted plumber. Pull the old washer out and replace it with a new one. Ensure that you have the correct washer for the specific cistern type.

Sometime this type of leak is not because of the washer but because there is dirt or some other object that causes the washer not to seat properly.

Clean the area and refit the top of the flush valve.

