

Save Water In The Laundry

How often you use your washing machine is a big part of how much water your home uses or wastes. A top loader for example can use up to 200 litres of water per wash.

You can reduce the water you use by:

- Only washing full loads.
- Does it really need washing? Break the habit of throwing things straight in the wash. Towels, for example, can be used more than once before washing.
- Choose a water-efficient washing machine. Look for the AAA water conservation rating label. Consider buying a front loader – they use about half the water a top loader does.
- Turn down the water setting. If doing a half-load, adjust the water level or use economy settings.
- When washing clothes by hand, put the plug in and partly fill the sink with water rather than using running water.
- Rainwater is a good source of water for gardens

Measuring Your Water Use

Most Central Otago properties on a Council water supply have had a water meters installed. All properties will be metered by 2014.

Council's contractor will read your meter three times each year. The reading schedule is as follows:

Alexandra	Aug/Dec/April
Clyde	July/Nov/March
Omakau	Sept/Jan/May
Cromwell/Pisa	Oct/Feb/June
Patearoa/Naseby/Ranfurly	Sept/Jan/May
Roxburgh	July/Nov/March

How To Read Your Own Water Meter

You can use your water meter to calculate how much water you are using around your house and also to identify water wasters such as leaks

You will find your water meter under a blue lid near your property boundary. Lift the protective cap and you will see a display panel on your water meter which looks like this.



The black numbers represent cubic metres (m³) – 1 cubic metre = 1,000 litres. These are the figures we look at when reading your water meter. The figures in red show how many litres of the next cubic metre (1,000 litres) you have used. These are useful to show water use over a short period of time.

If the dials are moving and you are sure there is no water being used on your property, you may have a water leak. If needed, call a plumber of your choice and have the leak repaired.

Want more information?

For more information contact CODC Water Services on 03 440-0056 or water@codc.govt.nz

SAVING WATER AROUND YOUR HOME



A Limited Water Supply?

As we look at the Clutha rolling past it seems hard to believe there are limits to our supply of water.

There are significant costs associated with getting water from the source to your tap. In particular is the cost of storage, treatment and piping the water to your home.

Saving Water Saves Money

By managing our water use we also manage that cost. Any upgrades or expansions are funded by the local community. The ability of the community to afford that cost is a key consideration.

On a larger scale there are social and environmental benefits of saving water. Using water efficiently helps minimise the environmental impacts of water use and also saves money that would otherwise be spent building new dams, reservoirs and treatment plants.

What can I do to save water?

Everyone can do their bit to save water. It all adds up. The easiest way to save water is to fix leaks. Fixing a worn tap washer can save up to 5000 litres of water a month for only a few dollars.

The simple changes we make to our behaviour when using water are often the most effective.



Save Water In The Kitchen

Kitchen and laundry water use accounts for 30% of household water use and much of that is wasted.

What can you do to reduce wastage?

- Use a water efficient dishwasher. Look for the AAA rating and economy settings for small loads.
- Don't rinse dishes before loading. Most machines are designed to clean very dirty dishes. If you must rinse, soak briefly in soapy water and load without rinsing.
- Wash full loads. Dishwashers can use up to 125 litres per wash. Wait until it's full before using it.
- Not cleaning properly? Check for clogged pumps, rotors or leaking hoses before switching to the heavy duty cycle
- Use vinegar to cut grease. Add a quarter to half a cup of vinegar to your wash water. This works better than just using hot water.
- Keep drinking water in the fridge. Not running the tap to get water cold saves up to two litres per glass.
- Defrost food overnight in the fridge or thaw in the microwave instead of running water over it.
- Put the plug in when washing vegetables. Running the tap can waste 10 litres of water each minute. Instead, partly fill the sink to use less water.
- Save water and energy by microwaving, steaming or using a pressure cooker. Simmer, don't boil, and use tightly fitting lids to stop evaporation and save up to 20 litres a week.
- When boiling vegetables use just enough water to cover them.

Save Water In The Bathroom

Bathroom and toilet water use accounts for half the water used by most households. Toilets alone flush around 25 percent of household water down the drain.

An average single-flush toilet uses 11 litres per flush. A house with three occupants flushes 165 litres a day or two thirds of an Olympic size pool each year.

- Don't use the toilet to flush away rubbish such as tissues or other bits of rubbish.
- Install a modern dual-flush adaptor and reduce water use by up to eight litres per flush.
- Install a flush saver device to reduce flush volume.
- If you can't install a flush saver device, put a 1 or 1.5 litre plastic bottle filled with water in the cistern well clear of any moving parts. Don't use bricks as they can disintegrate and clog the tank.
- Check for slow leaks by adding a few drops of dye to the toilet cistern. Coloured water in the bowl shows the cistern needs to be repaired.
- Install tap aerators on the bathroom sink. These cut water flow by half without reducing pressure.
- Turning off the water when brushing teeth or shaving can save up to 56 litres of water a day.
- Fill the sink to wash your face and hands. A running tap can waste up to 10 litres a minute.
- Keep a nailbrush and pumice by the sink to wash dirt off – don't rely on water pressure.
- Take shorter showers or only partly fill the bath. Showers are more water efficient than baths but only if they last for four minutes or less.

