

Home Water Efficiency Audit

Instructions & Activities

Homes can use a lot of water and often water is wasted without our knowledge. Students like you, can help to see if your home is water efficient and where fixes and savings can be made by doing the Water Efficiency Audit for your home.

Just follow the steps below, have fun with your family members doing some of the activities and add the information you collected to the Audit Form attached.

STEP 1

How Much Water Do We Use?

- Find out where your local water supply comes from by checking your homes water bill, or using the internet or library resources.
- Work out how much water your home is using each week by making a daily water meter reading for 1 week.
- Add your findings to Section 1 of the Audit Form.

ACTIVITY

Reading the water meter at home

- This activity depends on being able to safely access the water meter.
- Make sure the area is checked for spiders, snakes, etc., prior to checking it.
- Take daily water meter readings at the same time each day for 5 days.

STEP 2

Where Do We Use Water?

- Take a walk around your home to find all the places where water is used. Some are more obvious than others, so make sure you explore your home and its garden for water users and water wasters! Some places you might explore include bathrooms, gardens, kitchens, laundry, etc.
- Add your big list of places to the table in Section 2 of the Audit Form.
- Add to the table if you saw a leak in any of the places. You and a grown up can check for leaks with taps and toilets.
- With a grown ups help you might be able to measure the amount of water your toilets uses to flush and the amount of water your taps deliver in a minute (or their flow rate).

STEP 2 cont.

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- A general guide for flow rates is as follows:
 - Sink taps flow should not exceed 12 litres per minute.
 - Hand basin taps should not exceed 6 litres per minute.
 - Shower flows should not exceed 9 litres per minute.
- Finish Step 2 by adding all this information to your table in the Audit Form. Then answer the questions beneath it. This will help you to see the total amount of water users there are and how many leaks or taps need to be fixed.

STEP 3

Are We Water Wise?

- Answer the questions listed in Section 3 of the Audit Form to see if your home is doing all it can to be water wise.

STEP 4

Can We Save Some Water Today?

- Write a list of all the places you found where water was wasted in Section 4 of the Audit Form.
- Then, write down how you think you can encourage other family members to save water in your home.

ACTIVITY

How much is the tap leaking?

1. Place a measuring cup (that measures millilitres) under the leaky tap and start a stop-watch.
2. Leave the cup under the leaky tap for 15 minutes.
3. Note down how many millimetres were captured, then you can calculate how many litres per hour the tap is leaking.
4. You can then work out how much water would be wasted in 1 day, 1 week and 1 year.

WANT TO LEARN MORE ABOUT WATER IN OUR REGION?

Head to www.tamworth.nsw.gov.au/water

Council's website has lots of information on where your water comes from, water restrictions, tips on how to save water and even a place for you and your family to ask Council questions about water.

SECTION 1

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How Much Water Do We Use?

1. How many people live in your home? _____
2. Fill out Table 1 during Week 1 and Table 2 during Week 3. Use Week 2 to make water saving changes around your home.

TABLE 1 – WEEK 1

Day	Water Meter Reading	Litres of Water Used
Monday		
Tuesday		
Wednesday		
Thursday		
Friday		
Saturday		
Sunday		
Total water used this week		
Average water used per person per day (total water used this week ÷ 7 ÷ No. people in your home)		

TABLE 2 – WEEK 3

Day	Water Meter Reading	Litres of Water Used
Monday		
Tuesday		
Wednesday		
Thursday		
Friday		
Saturday		
Sunday		
Total water used this week		
Average water used per person per day (total water used this week ÷ 7 ÷ No. people in your home)		

SECTION 2

Where Do We Use Water?

1. Fill out the table.

Place where water is used	Is there a leak?	What is the flow rate?
e.g. Bathroom 1 – toilet	No	
e.g. Kitchen Taps	Yes	14l per minute

SECTION 2 cont.

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2. Fill in the gaps below

- 💧 There are ____ toilets
- 💧 There are ____ dual flush toilets
- 💧 There are ____ single flush toilets
- 💧 There are ____ hand basins
- 💧 There are ____ outside taps
- 💧 There are ____ taps flowing too fast
- 💧 There are ____ taps flowing just right
- 💧 There are ____ taps flowing too slow
- 💧 We counted ____ leaking taps
- 💧 We counted ____ leaking toilets

SECTION 3

Are We Water Wise?

1. Are there many leaks?	
2. Are any taps left running when not in use?	
3. How many toilets are dual flush toilets?	
4. Do all family members know the difference between half flush and full flush and what one to use when?	
5. Do all family members know how to tell if they see leaking toilets or taps?	
6. Do all family members turn off taps if they see them left running?	
7. Does your home have a rainwater tank?	
8. Is there any outdoor watering at home?	
9. How often do you water outdoors?	
10. Is outdoor watering from a tank?	

SECTION 4

Can We Save Water Today?

1. Write down here all the places where water is wasted in your home and tell us how you can save it. _____

2. How can you encourage other family members to save water at home? _____

WELL DONE!

You have done a great job. Your Water Efficiency Audit is now complete. Now you can save some water and ensure your home takes care of its water use until you do another audit!