

# Anti-Wally Water Usage

You don't need to be a dyed-in-the-wool greenie to go green around the home. In fact one of great things about decreasing the size of your much talked about environmental "footprint" is that in most cases the measures you can take won't just help to save the environment; they'll save you money, as well. Water consumption is a good example. As Australia's long-running drought makes us more and more aware of how precious a resource water is, we inevitably find ourselves paying more for it. So the following tips aren't just about being more environmentally sustainable – they're about being financially sustainable, also:

## Consider better technology

It's been estimated that an energy-smart washing machine has the potential to save more water in one year than the average person drinks in a lifetime. That means you'll be recouping the extra expense that comes with a technologically advanced machine a lot more quickly than might have expected.

## Use your dishwasher (don't wash by hand)

An average-sized automatic dishwasher uses less hot water than doing a similar amount of washing by hand. Even if you're ultra-conservative with your manual washing, the saving you make by opting for the dishwasher can still add up to thousands of litres a year.

## Change your shower head

Low-flow shower heads work. And for those who love a nice strong shower, there's no need to put the purchase off; most modern products significantly reduce water expenditure without reducing flow strength. And they're cheap, too.

## Turn down the temperature

Setting your water heat to scalding is generally wasteful. Lower your thermostat to a temperature that lets you comfortably put your hand under a running tap, and you'll notice the savings – in power and water – almost immediately.