

## Step 3 > Take action

### Getting the stuff you need to save water now

Once you have done the SmartWaterUse Check Up:

1. Make a list of the water-saving devices you could use for taps, toilets and shower.
2. Go to the SmartWaterUse page on your Council's website or call them to find out if you can get what you need from them.
3. If your Council doesn't stock the items, go to [www.ecowatersolutions.co.nz](http://www.ecowatersolutions.co.nz) (or ring 021 1350 106) to order direct from the supplier.
4. When you get the items you ordered, install them right away.
5. **Start saving water, power and money!**

*Reducing hot water use in taps and showers by installing these water-saving devices where they are needed can cut your power bill – by as much as \$100 per person per year. That's a \$200 annual savings for a couple or \$400 for a family of four!*

*Save even more money by reducing your shower time. Go for the famous 'four-minute' shower!*



SmartWaterUse is a collaborative campaign of all councils around the Waikato region – working together to help conserve water

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### A quick and easy SmartWaterUse Check Up to see if you can **save water, power and money!**

Single-flush toilets and some taps and showers can use a lot of water! Luckily, there are inexpensive, easy-to-install devices that will cut waste to a minimum.

This **SmartWaterUse Check Up form** helps you find out if you can save water, and power and money whenever hot water is used.

It's a **three-step process** to check taps, toilets and shower. It takes only a few minutes. Give it a go – for smart water use. Get a pen and paper and record the results as you work your way around your home.



## Step 1 > Assess the current situation

## Step 2 > Explore alternatives

WATER  
FIXTURE

TAP AND SHOWER FLOW RATES:  
For a more accurate reading, do two collections and average them.

### Taps

If any of the taps in your kitchen, bathroom and laundry are:

- Individual Hot and Cold taps mounted on the counter top *or*
- Single lever (mixer) tap and faucet *or*
- Individual taps with a combined spout ...

Check the flow rate. To do this:

1. Turn the water on and run it at your normal flow.
2. Place a container under the tap and collect water for 10 seconds.
3. Measure the volume of water collected (e.g. pour into a measuring cup or standard size container).
4. Multiply the volume x 6 to determine flow rate in litres per minute (l/min).

If the flow rate is more than 12 l/min on any tap, consider installing an aerator or flow restrictor to reduce it to 9 l/min or less – a minimum 25% reduction.

To do this:

- On taps with an aerator, unscrew the fitting at the end and install a 6 l/min aerator.
- On taps with no aerator, install a 9-litre flow restrictor on each line under the counter.



### Toilets

Check toilet type. Is the toilet:

- Single flush *or*
- Dual flush (can't be improved)

If the toilet is a single-flush model:

1. Take the top off the tank behind the toilet.
2. Locate the centre post with washer that keeps the water in the tank.
3. Flush the toilet and watch the action of the lever arms and centre post.

To reduce the volume of water used during each flush, you can:

- Adjust the lever arm so the float stops the tank refilling at a lower level – this gives a modest reduction in water use *or*
- Install a cistern weight, hanging it over the centre post – this can reduce water use by as much as 60% every flush! To function properly, hold the flush lever down until the bowl is clear then release it. When you do this, the weight forces the washer to close and prevents any more water escaping.



### Showers

If the shower is a:

- Standard/wall mount shower rose *or*
- Slide and hose type ...

Check the flow rate. To do this:

1. Turn the water on and run it at your normal flow.
2. Place a container (e.g. a pail) under the shower flow and collect water for 10 seconds.
3. Measure the volume of water collected (e.g. pour into a standard size container).
4. Multiply the volume x 6 to determine flow rate in litres per minute.

If the flow rate is more than 18 l/min, you can install a low-flow showerhead or flow restrictor to reduce it to 9 or 12 l/min – this provides a minimum 33% reduction in water use. If the flow is less than 18 l/min (possibly due to low or uneven pressure) a restrictor might still be worth a try.

To do this:

- On a wall mount shower, replace the shower rose with an 'eco' showerhead or insert a 9-litre flow restrictor.
- On a slide and hose type, install an 'eco' slide shower hand piece or a 9-litre flow restrictor.

