

Be water wise this summer



Selwyn’s population has grown by 33% since 2006. New bores and water supply upgrades are planned and underway for Rolleston, Lincoln and West Melton to provide additional capacity for the growing population. Reducing water use is important in all areas of the district as Selwyn households tend to be high users of water. Residential properties connected to a Council supply used an average of 1,470 litres of water per day in 2012/13 and 1,386 litres per day in 2011/12. As a comparison, typical household use in New Zealand is around 675 litres per day.

Part of the reason why Selwyn households have higher water consumption is because properties tend to have large sections and over dry summers water use can increase significantly. Additional bores can be added to increase the capacity of Council water supplies, but this is costly and unsustainable. Over summer, demand for water is much higher than in winter, as people use more water to maintain their lawns. When demand for water is very high during dry summers, water restrictions can be introduced if necessary.

Demand is especially high at the peak times of 6–9am in the morning and 4–9pm in the evening, when people use water for cooking, washing and dishwashers, and often water their lawns at the same time. So that there is enough water to go around this summer, we are asking everyone to be careful about how they use water. Some areas like Rolleston also pay for their water based on metered use so reducing your water consumption will mean you spend less on water bills.

Tips for managing your water use

You can help manage your water consumption wisely by following these tips:

Your garden and lawn

- Water your garden and lawn every few days rather than every day. Wetting the soil surface every day encourages roots to develop at the surface, making them more vulnerable to hot dry spells.
- Water your garden and lawn outside of peak water usage hours (avoid 6am–9am, and 4pm–9pm). Watering in the early morning (before 6am) or late evening (after 9pm) will minimise evaporation loss. Also avoid watering in a Nor’ West wind as the water will quickly evaporate.



Garden sprinklers can use up to 1,500 litres of water per hour. See the waterwise advice on how best to water your garden.

- Using a watering can or hand watering plants that need it by hose often uses far less water than a sprinkler.
- Use a timer to avoid overwatering as it makes plants more susceptible to fungus diseases and will leach out soil nutrients.
- Use mulch or cover the soil with a layer of organic matter to keep the soil moist. Mulches help protect plant roots from drying effects of sun and wind and also reduce weed growth.
- Check if the soil needs watering by digging down with a trowel and having a look. This is more accurate way to see if watering is needed than looking at the surface.
- Check you have the right head for your sprinkler. Sprinklers should apply water gently so that it seeps into the soil. Some sprinklers apply water at rates higher than the soil can absorb.
- When planting new additions to your garden choose drought resistant plants that don’t require a lot of water.

Outdoors

- Wash your car with a bucket of water rather than a hose.
- Use a broom rather than hosing down paths and driveways.
- Inspect hoses and taps both indoors and outdoors to check for leaks which waste water.

- Collect rainwater for use watering gardens and lawns.
- If you have a swimming pool, keep it covered to stop the water evaporating.

Indoors

- Turn off the tap while brushing your teeth.
- Reduce your water consumption at the peak times of 6–9am and 4–9pm. Easy ways to do this include using your washing machine after 9pm at night, and putting your dishwasher on just before you go to bed.
- Take a short shower instead of a bath.
- Don’t switch on the dishwasher or washing machine until you have a full load.
- Use a half flush when using the toilet.
- Rinse and peel vegetables in a bowl or sink instead of running them under the tap.



How much water do you use?

This chart shows the amount of water typically used for different household activities. Once you know where your water is going, you can think about how you could reduce your water use. If your water is metered and billed this will help reduce how much you spend on water.

Kitchen—Activity	Water used	Buckets
Dishwashing by Hand	12 to 15 litres per wash	1– 1½
Dishwasher	20 to 60 litres per wash	2– 6
Drinking, Cooking, Cleaning	8 litres per person	¾–1
Bathroom— Activity	Water used	Buckets
Toilet	4.5 to 11 litres per flush	½–1
Bath	50 to 120 litres (half full)	5–12
Shower (8 minutes)	70 to 160 litres per 8 minutes	7–16
Handbasin	5 litres	½
Tap Running (Cleaning teeth, washing hands)	5 litres	½
Leaking Tap	200 litres	20
Laundry— Activity	Water used	Buckets
Washing Machine (Front loading)	23 litres per kg of dry clothing	4–5
Washing Machine (Top Loading)	31 litres per kg of dry clothing	5–6
Outside—Activity	Water used	Buckets
Hand Watering by Hose	600 to 900 litres per hour	60–90
Garden Sprinkler	Up to 1500 litres per hour	150
Car Wash with Hose	100 to 300 litres	10–30
Filling Swimming Pool	20,000 to 50,000 litres	2,000–5,000
Leaking Pipe (1.5mm hole)	300 litres per day	30