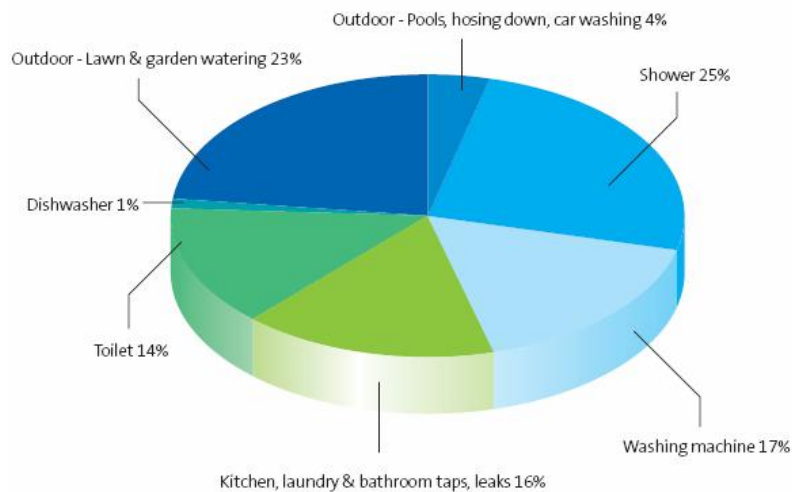


## WATER SMART Households

There is a common misconception that the major water users in Sydney are business and industry. In fact, in a typical year without drought restrictions, households in Sydney account for about 70% of total drinking water use.

The figure below shows major areas where this water is used around the home and garden. A broad range of water saving programs are in place to reduce water use in each of these areas.

Where water is used in and around the home



## WaterFix – improving water efficiency in homes

Indoor water use for showers, toilets and taps accounts for a significant proportion of total household demand. To improve efficiency in existing homes and to help people to reduce their water bills, Sydney Water offers householders the opportunity to have a qualified plumber install water efficient fittings and fixtures in their homes for \$22. A retrofit reduces household water use by an average of 20,900 litres per year.

The WaterFix Program is one of the largest residential water efficiency incentive programs offered anywhere in the world. In total, retrofits have been provided to more than 310,000 homes.

## Do-It-Yourself Water Saving Kit

Sydney Water is also offering a free 'Do-It-Yourself' (DIY) Water Saving Kit to enable householders themselves to make taps and showers in their home more water efficient.

Developed as an alternative to the full service WaterFix Program, the kits provide householders with the opportunity to upgrade their existing inefficient showerheads and taps. The kit is quick and easy to install, and enables each household to save approximately 16,000 litres of water each year.

By February 2006, over 18,000 customers had collected their kits from the authorised outlets.

### **Rainwater Tank Rebate Program**

Rainwater tanks are an effective way to take the pressure off limited water resources, and at the same time, help manage stormwater runoff. Storing rainwater runoff from roofs can provide water for flushing toilets, washing clothes, watering gardens and washing cars.

The Rainwater Tank Rebate Program is designed to encourage Sydney's existing residential customers to install rainwater tanks. The program offers rebates ranging from \$150 for a 2,000 litre capacity tank to \$500 for tanks with a capacity equal to or greater than 7,000 litres. An additional \$150 rebate is available if a licensed plumber connects the tank for indoor use to supply washing machines or toilets. The rebate for installing tanks will be available until July 2008.

Since the Rainwater Tank Rebate Program was launched in 2002, around 20,800 rebates have been paid. The program is estimated to have reduced demand by 760 million litres per year.

### **Washing Machine Rebate Program**

To help speed the transition to efficient washing machines and to encourage industry to develop new products, a new Washing Machine Rebate Program was implemented in March 2006. Under the program, which will run until March 2007, a \$150 rebate will be provided to residents in Sydney Water's area of operations for the purchase of a new 4-star or 5A rated water efficient washing machine.

Washing machines were selected for the rebate scheme as they are a big water user in the average home and water efficient machines are a cost effective way to make real savings.

Using a more efficient machine delivers annual savings of around 21,000 litres of water, 125-kilowatt hours of electricity and, as a result, around \$45 off water bills. Within Sydney, the program, combined with the savings from a 2003 pilot program, is expected to save around 0.5 billion litres a year.

**For more information visit [waterforlife.nsw.gov.au](http://waterforlife.nsw.gov.au)**