

Info Sheet:

Managing Household Water & Wastewater Costs

The following information may help you to better understand how water costs mount up:

- Water charges are \$1.480 (including GST) per 1,000 litres and fixed wastewater charges are \$211 per year and from \$2.454 to \$2.535 per 1,000 litres of wastewater discharged (including GST).
- A high flow shower head uses say 15 litres per minute (lpm) and a low flow one uses 7 lpm (which is a difference of 8 lpm). If there are 3 people in the house each showering once a day for 5 minutes the water saving is $8 \times 3 \times 5$ i.e. 120 litres or 20 cents a day / \$1.40 per week / \$5.00 per month or \$60 per year water savings.
- Length of showers have a similar effect .The recommended shower length is 3 mins so if you shower for 5 you use and extra 16 litres per day or 112 litres per week. If there are 3 people in the house all showering for an extra 2 minutes then extra water use is 336 litres per week or 1344 litres per month or an extra \$2.00 per month.
- One person using a high flow shower head showering for 5 minutes a day uses 75 litres per minute or 525 litres per week or 2100 litres per month which costs you \$3.15 per month
- The more people in the house, the more water used and the more it costs. If you have boarders or family members staying you need to think about whether you can afford to pay for their showers, washing, cooking and other water usage without asking them to reimburse you for some of the cost.
- You are also paying for heating water and waste water charges
- Leaks are another reason for high water use. Checking for a water leak is easy if you follow these four steps:
 1. Make sure you are not using any water. It is best to check for a leak overnight when no water is being used.
 2. Take a note of the reading on your meter.
 3. Wait for at least two hours (or overnight if possible). Remember not to use any water.
 4. Check the meter reading again. If the second reading is different to the first, you may have a leak.



Early morning reading 7:00am



Previous night's reading 10:00pm

If the leak test confirms that you have a water leak, you will need to fix it. We recommend you use a registered plumber for any repairs. All leaks on your side of the meter are your responsibility.

- One reason people may shower for longer is because the house is cold. Eco Matters Trust may be able to assist you by carrying out a water audit and/or a healthy home check and recommend practical ways (including some water saving devices) to assist you in lowering your water usage, and warming your home.

Contact details: Phone: 09 826 4276 www.ecomatters.org.nz

- If you are receiving Work & Income assistance, then you may wish to check with your budget adviser that you are receiving your full entitlements particularly if your circumstances have changed, for example you may have had a part time job at some point which you no longer have so your benefit should increase or tax should reduce . Budget advisers are also able to offer advice which will help you manage the money you do have available including negotiating payment arrangements with lenders .