

## **TIPS ON SAVING WATER**

The following are several tips for customer to save water, and thus conserve it. By following these tips, customers can ensure the efficient use of water.

- Fill a litre flat-based bottle with water. Place the bottle at the bottom of the toilet cistern. Make sure it doesn't disturb any other moving parts in the cistern or alternatively place two half bricks in the corners of the cistern, once again make sure it does not disturb any moving parts in the cistern. One of these two processes will ensure you have half a flush for liquids (Urine) which is good enough and you will have to flush twice for solids, full flush (Faeces).
- In order to check for leaks in your cistern, put a little food colouring in the cistern and take note if the colouring appears in the bowl below without flushing. If the food colouring does appear in the bowl below it means your cistern is not closing properly and you are losing water.
- Plan your garden. Group plants according to their water needs.
- Cover flowers / vegetables beds with mulch. Cut grass, leaves, sawdust, tree bark etc. can be used.
- Grow as many indigenous plants as possible. They need less water.
- Frequent watering makes your plants shallow rooted and more dependent on you for survival. Less watering will toughen the grass and your plants and encourage its roots to spread deeper.
- The leaves of plants and trees do not need to be watered. You can therefore focus all the water on the roots of the plants and trees to ensure that they absorb all of the water you are giving them.
- Digging a small trench around the trees in your yard will allow the water to soak in instead of running off.
- Different varieties of lawn grass have differing water requirements. Consult your local nursery for varieties that are appropriate to your area.
- When mowing the lawn, do not cut the grass shorter than 2cm. If you do, the grass will not have enough leaf area to protect itself from the burning effects of the sun.
- Use a water-can rather than a hose pipe to water plants.
- Re-use bath / shower water - if possible.
- Collect rain water from gutters - if possible.
- Avoid watering your garden in the middle of the day. The best time to water your garden is early in the morning or late in the afternoon.

- Wash your car on the lawn / grass - if possible.
- Repair damaged, leaking pipes, taps etc. as soon as they are detected.
- Do not use toilets as a rubbish bin. This causes you to flush the toilet unnecessarily and is also a major cause of sewer blockages.
- Take a short shower or a shallow bath. Do not fill your bath to its maximum.
- Keep a bottle in the fridge for cold water so you don't have to consistently run the tap for cold water.
- Don't allow sprinklers to spray over paths and driveways.
- Install rain sensitive sprinklers.
- Do not water your garden unnecessarily during rainy months.
- Do not water your garden on windy days or during the midday.
- Use a broom to clean paving, courtyards, driveways or pathways rather than a hosepipe.
- Cover your pool when not in use to save water from evaporating.
- Don't let the tap run when brushing your teeth.
- A tap leaking 50 drops a minute, adds up to 1838 litres a year.
- When washing dishes by hand, don't let the water run while rinsing. Fill one sink with wash water and the other with rinse water.
- Avoid washing vegetables under running water. Use bowl instead, and afterwards empty it in the garden.
- If you have a dishwasher, only use it with a full load.
- Save water by not using your washing machine daily with a small load. Try to wash a full load every time.