FACT SHEET - COUNCIL SERVICES

Conserve our Water

Why save water?

Although our fresh water is ranked in the top ten for abundance globally, we have had to impose water restrictions from time to time on some of our water supplies in the district.

The Council operates 11 water schemes supplying water to over 21,500 properties.

With our rapidly growing population and increasing pressure on our water sources, we must change our habits to maintain the same access to water tomorrow as we have today.

Be aware of your water footprint

Using less water benefits the environment and reduces the costs to run our water supplies, which benefits you. Conserving water now could avoid expensive upgrades to supplies in the future.

The costs involved with providing water to and taking wastewater away from households includes:

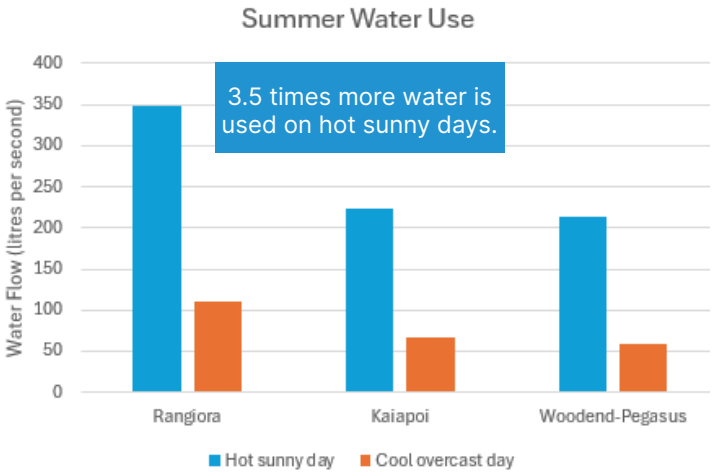
- pumping
- pipework
- treatment
- reservoir storage.

If all households conserve water then the costs of treatment, pumping and pipe replacement can be reduced.

Using water sparingly will also reduce your household's water heating bills.

How much water do I use?

The average Waimakariri household used over 900 litres of water per day in 2025.



Weather makes a big difference to water use

The blue bars in the chart show the flow from our water treatment plants on the evening of a hot sunny day in December. The orange bars are the flow from the same treatment plants a few days later at the same time of day – a cooler, overcast day. In each town, water use was 3.5 times higher on the hot sunny day.

Everybody can save substantial amounts of water easily and at little cost. On hot, sunny days, the demand for water is the highest. On these days everyone needs to be most aware of their own water use.

What can I do?

We need to reduce water usage during hot sunny days, as this is when water is most scarce and when the water supplies have their highest demand.

Water use in the garden contributes most to this peak in water demand, therefore water savings in the garden have the largest benefit for everyone.

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In the garden

- Water early in the morning or in the evening to avoid evaporation.
- Water the ground, not the leaves and branches, and not paved areas.
- Use a trigger device on the hose so that you can stop and start water flow easily.
- Use water sparingly, especially on hot days when water demand is the highest.



In the kitchen

- Keep a jug of cold water in the fridge so you don't have to run the tap for cold drinking water.
- Don't wash vegetables or rinse dishes under a running tap, put the plug in the sink or use a bowl of water.
- If washing dishes by hand, use the minimum amount of detergent to reduce rinsing.
- Aerated taps are inexpensive and can reduce water flow by 50%.

In the bathroom

- Keep shower length to a minimum, ideally 5 minutes or less. Install a low flow shower head and save on water heating costs as well.
- If you want a long soak, a bath is more effective, but only use as much water as required.
- Turn the water off while brushing your teeth, shaving or soaping your hands.

In the laundry

- Use washing machines for full loads only.
- Use water efficient appliances - all new appliances have a water efficiency labelling (WELS) rating on them.
- In-sink waste disposal units waste a lot of water, use organic waste in the garden or compost food waste instead.

In the yard

- Use a broom instead of water to clean the yard or driveway.
- Use a bucket of soapy water to wash cars and bikes, then rinse quickly with a hose.
- Check outside pipes, taps and sprinklers and repair any leaks promptly.
- Report any leaks on the road or the footpath to the Council, using the Snap Send Solve app or by calling 0800 965 468.



Find out more at waimakariri.govt.nz, or contact Customer Services on 0800 965 468.