

Conserve our Water

Why save water?

Although our fresh water is ranked in the top ten for both cleanliness and 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 12 water schemes supplying water to over 20,000 properties.

With our rapidly growing population and increasingly erratic rainfall, 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 both the environment and can reduce 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 waste water away from households includes:

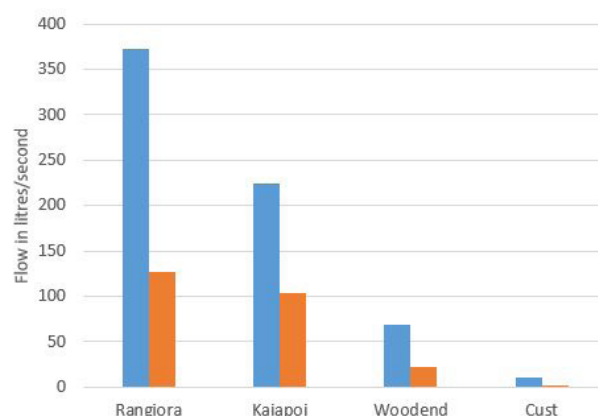
- pumps
- treatment
- pipes
- reservoirs.

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 1,000 litres of water per day in 2021.



Weather makes a big difference to water use

The blue bars in the chart show the flow from our water treatment plants at 8.41pm on Tuesday 26 January – a hot sunny day. The orange bars are the flow from the same treatment plants exactly one week earlier at the same time – a cooler, overcast day. In each town, water use was 2 to 5 times higher on the hot sunny day.

Everybody can save substantial amounts of water easily and at little cost. On the 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 schemes 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.

Please turn over

In the garden

- Water either 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 is in highest demand.



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 efficient, 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 it.

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.



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