

securing | our water future



## Useful shower water saving hints

- > Take shorter showers. Limit showers to the time it takes to soap up, wash down, and rinse off. Remember that shorter showers also save on hot water costs.
- > Use a shower timer or alarm.
- > Don't turn the shower on flat out.
- > Make sure that your hot water thermostat is not set too high – adding cool water to very hot water is wasteful.
- > Use a bucket to collect water from the shower while you are waiting for it to reach the right temperature. Easy to use and store buckets have been designed for this very purpose.
- > Consider buying a thermostatic mixer which will deliver the water at the temperature that you want, so you aren't wasting water trying to get the right temperature.
- > Insulate your hot water pipes so the water is still hot when it arrives at the tap. If possible, install your hot water system as close to where the water is required or install an instant hot water service.

Look for information about the water efficiency performance of any product when making a purchase at <http://search.waterrating.com.au>

Source: [www.savewater.com.au](http://www.savewater.com.au)

### Water security actions

See our water security plan **Waterplan 2055** on our website [www.coliban.com.au](http://www.coliban.com.au)

# Water Education Sessions

Coliban Water has initiated a series of information and education sessions to equip the community with practical information about using grey water, rainwater tanks, saving water inside the home and sustaining gardens in dry times.

We have been working with various organisations and industry experts to plan the sessions including the **City of Greater Bendigo, Plumbing Industry Commission, Environment Protection Authority** and **Department of Primary Industries**. It has been wonderful to have the support of all these organisations, and also some of our local experts, to bring the community an education program that is highly relevant now that our region has moved to restrictions which ban all outside watering.

From focus groups conducted in late August – the message was loud and clear that people want to know what they can do as individual members of the community to save water. Our customers told us they know about the restrictions and that it means no outside watering.

'More education' is the message we are hearing, so register for a session and learn more about:

- > [Using grey water and rain water](#)
- > [Saving water inside your home](#)
- > [Sustaining gardens in dry times](#)



### Bendigo Education Sessions

**Tuesday 3 October**  
9am to 11am

**Wednesday 4 October**  
1pm to 3pm and 6.30pm to 8.30pm

**Monday 9 October**  
1pm to 3pm and 6.30pm to 8.30pm

**Sunday 15 October**  
10am to 12pm and 12.45pm to 2.45pm

**Registration:** Bookings essential, places limited. Telephone 1300 304 803, 9am–4.30pm Monday to Friday. Admission is free.

Urban customers can refer to the Coliban Water website to view information about current water restriction levels at [www.coliban.com.au](http://www.coliban.com.au)

### Interesting Fact

#### Industry water saving.

In the last five years our large trade customers have reduced their water consumption by over one billion litres of water per year! We have been working with our major customers over many years on their water saving plans and actions. Through their commitment these achievements continue to be made. A number of these customers are proactive in seeking funding support from organisations including the Smart Water Fund to assist in achieving their savings targets.

### Stage 4 Restrictions > Can I use water from my rainwater tank?

The Stage 4 water restrictions in the **Bendigo, Castlemaine, Kyneton and Heathcote** areas restrict the use of water from the Coliban Water supply system. The water restrictions have no impact on the use of grey water, rainwater or bore water.

Useful websites for complying with regulations and guidelines for using grey water and installing rainwater tanks:

Plumbing Industry Commission > [www.pic.vic.gov.au](http://www.pic.vic.gov.au)

Environment Protection Authority > [www.epa.vic.gov.au](http://www.epa.vic.gov.au)

Green Plumbers > [www.greenplumbers.com.au](http://www.greenplumbers.com.au)

City of Greater Bendigo > [www.bendigo.vic.gov.au](http://www.bendigo.vic.gov.au)

### Catch that water!

with Kevin Walsh

Whatever you do, don't let that water get away! With the ground really dry and no outside watering allowed it is essential that as much spring rain as possible gets into the soil.

- > Put off mulching until the end of spring so as much as possible of the natural spring rain gets into the soil. If you have already mulched and rain is predicted you could pull the mulch aside temporarily.
- > Break up any soil crust with a fork or hoe to improve rain penetrating into the soil.



- > Considering forming up small 'dam walls' on the down hill side of plants and gardens. Then any rain that runs down the slope is caught in the 'dam' to then soak into the root zone of the plants.



- > Add soil wetting agents to the soil to improve the soil's ability to take in water, but also to hold the moisture in the root zone.
- > Consider installing a rainwater tank before summer too!

