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waterworks

When choosing new fixtures and appliances for the bathroom (and laundry), make sure you base your decision on the Federal Government's Water Efficiency Labelling and Standards scheme, which rates water fixings such as taps, showers, washing machines and toilets with up to six stars for maximum efficiency. From 2008, all new products should sport the WELS label. The label shows you the product's star rating (water efficiency) as well as its water consumption – for example, 13 litres per minute – so it's really easy to choose the best items for your bathroom. Check the WELS online products database to compare the ratings of water-using equipment (www.waterrating.gov.au).

reading matter

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That two-ply designer toilet paper is indeed an expensive luxury. According to the Australian Conservation Foundation, every tonne of paper recycled saves 13 trees, 2.5 barrels of oil, 4100 kilowatts of electricity, 4 cubic metres of landfill and 31,380 litres of water. But only 5 per cent of toilet paper used in Australia is recycled – the rest is made from plantation or native forest trees. Make the switch to environmentally friendly recycled toilet paper that is unbleached, chlorine-free or 100 per cent recycled.

