

A quarter of average household water use goes on the garden; more than 90 per cent of that is poured on the lawn.

think tank

While dam levels fall, the vast majority of the rain run-off in urban areas is channelled along gutters and down pipes straight into the drain. The rain that falls on your roof can be collected in a tank and used on the garden, to fill the pool, for flushing toilets, doing the laundry, showering or even drinking. Every 100 millimetres of rainfall running off the average home roof can provide enough water for several weeks of total household consumption. You can get rebates for installing a rainwater tank, so check with your water authority or local council.

- Lower demand on water supply
- Lower water bills



from dusk to dawn

Plants and soil lose water during the day through evaporation. Watering during the cooler times of the day gives the water a chance to percolate through the soil and be absorbed by the roots of the plants. In hot conditions it is better to water in the evening. In cooler conditions, though, plants can develop fungal growth from water on their leaves overnight, so it is preferable to water early in the morning. Group thirsty plants together and water them longer but less often to encourage deeper roots and increase their drought tolerance.

- Less water consumption
- Lower water bills

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pave the way

Roofs, roads, driveways, footpaths and other water-resistant surfaces stop rainfall being absorbed into the ground to be used by plants and filtered by the soil before entering the water table. The run-off instead flows untreated down drains and is dumped directly into waterways, flooding the ecosystem with chemicals and other pollutants. The amount of water lost down the stormwater drain is many times that used in the average garden. Lessen the loss by minimising paved areas and using permeable pavers or paving designs that provide gaps for the rainwater to reach the earth.

- Less water waste
- Healthier garden
- Healthier environment