

Sustainability tips for around the home

Sustainability in the Bathroom

- Why not take the time for a nice relaxing bath rather than a shower. This way you can control the amount of water you use. Young siblings could also share the same bath.
- Take shorter showers, 3-4 minutes should be plenty of time. Why not sing your favourite 3 minute song so you don't lose track of time. If not, make sure you turn the water off while you lather up.
- Capture and reuse the cold water in the shower or sink whilst the hot water makes its way through your piping.
- Open a window rather than switch on the light or use an exhaust fan to reduce the amount of electricity you consume.
- Use ecofriendly hand wash and personal products to reduce the amount of chemicals entering our waterways.
- Install a dual flush mechanism on your toilet to reduce the amount of water wasted.
- Turn off the tap when brushing your teeth.
- Fix dripping taps. Did you know that a tap that drips at a rate of 60drops/minute equates to about 9000L of wasted water.

Sustainability in the Kitchen

- Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Recover!
- Use reusable containers for leftovers instead of plastic wrap or foil.
- Send children to school with a litterless lunch! Go waste free on Wednesday!
- Recycle plastic containers such as ice-cream and yoghurt containers.
- Reuse or recycle your plastic bags. Thrift shops are always keen to reuse your old shopping bags. Or they can be deposited at special bins in Coles Supermarkets where Replas recycles them to make all sorts of public infrastructure including park benches, bollards, floating walkways.
- Better yet, use reusable bags when doing your grocery shopping. Calico or string bags work wonders.
- Recycle paper and cardboard to be reused in items such as toilet paper. You can also recycle paper in your compost or worm farm.
- Reuse glass jars for jams and chutneys, or spare screws and nails in the garage.
- Take the time to sort through your waste and recycle everything possible. Did you know you can now recycle your aluminium foil? Just make sure you screw it up before you place it in the bin. This will ensure it does not get caught up in machinery at the recycling plant.
- Not sure what can and can't go in the yellow lid bin? Double check the Easy Recycle Guide on our Responsible Recycling Page.
- Install a manual hand pump for the tap plumbed to your tank. This will reduce the amount of water wasted whilst a tap is running.
- Use ecofriendly dishwashing liquid and hand wash, as well as other cleaning products for your floors and surfaces, to reduce the amount of chemicals entering our waterways.
- 'Recycle' your vegetable scraps in your compost heap or worm farm. This will reduce the amount of unnecessary space taken up in landfill.
- Save power by thawing out your dinner overnight rather than use the microwave. Switch off the microwave at the wall when you're not using it, how many people actually use the clock anymore?
- Think about what you want from the fridge before opening the door. This will reduce the amount of cool air lost, and therefore the energy used to bring the temperature of the fridge back down.
- Turn lights off when you leave the room.

Sustainability in the Lounge

- Take single sided paper home from work for the children to use for colouring in.
- Open curtains to allow natural light in
- Turn lights off when you leave the room.
- Turn appliances off at the wall. Power is still consumed by the little red 'standby' dot that stays illuminated when you switch off the TV with the remote.
- Turn all power points off when you go away on holidays.
- Wear jumpers and snuggle under blankets instead of using a heater, to reduce your energy consumption.
- Reduce the amount of energy consumed by your air conditioner by following these easy steps:
 - Open windows and turn fans on to encourage air circulation in your house.
 - Paint your roof a light colour to reduce the amount of heat absorbed by your roof and stored in the roof cavity.
 - Install insulation in your roof to keep it cool over summer and warm through the winter.
 - Install a 'whirly bird' to encourage air circulation in your roof cavity.
 - When you absolutely need to turn your air conditioner on, close windows and curtains to retain the cool air.

Sustainability Outdoors

- Install solar panels on your house or shed roof to reduce your need for non-renewable energy. Ensuring you have adequate battery storage will prolong your energy for periods of overcast weather.
- 'Recycle' vegetable scraps in a compost heap or worm farm. The by-product will make fantastic fertiliser.
- Use the clothes line as much as possible instead of the dryer. If it's raining try stringing up a few lines of rope in the garage or under the house.
- Wash your car on the lawn not the driveway to reduce the amount of water wasted down the stormwater drain. Also use ecofriendly cleaning products to reduce unnecessary chemicals entering our environment and waterways.
- Reuse water from your washing machine to water your garden. Double check with Council that this is approved in your area.
- Plant native trees in your backyard to encourage native birds, frogs and mammals into your garden. Native plants also require little to no watering once established.
- Mulch your garden to keep your garden beds moist and reduce the need for watering.
- Install rainwater tanks to help water your garden, or plumb it
- Keep your tank intake clear of leaves to reduce possible contamination and ensure that all rainwater is captured.
- Fix dripping taps. Did you know that a tap that drips at a rate of 60drops/minute equates to about 9000L of wasted water.
- Be sure to dispose of waste thoughtfully so they don't become an environmental hazard for animals or waterways. 'Take 3' pieces of rubbish with you each time you leave the beach or park.
- Cover your load when driving to reduce the amount of waste that can blow off into the environment.