

Reducing Waste Water for Holding Tank Owners

Your holding tank service

Reducing the amount of waste water your household produces can make a big difference to the cost of servicing your holding tank.

Sunshine Coast Council has put together some information to help you reduce the amount of water entering your system.

Pump out schedules

A range of pump out schedules are available depending on your waste water production.

The three main pump-out schedules available are (<6,000L):	
7 day service	\$5,975.00 per annum
14 day service	\$2,987.50 per annum
28 day service	\$1,493.25 per annum

Costs are valid for the 2021/22 financial year.

Save money on your pump out

The pump-out schedule you are on is determined by how much waste water your household produces. You can save money by reducing your waste water.

After each pump out you will receive a receipt detailing your waste water volume. If you notice that the volume is half your tanks capacity, you may be able to reduce your service frequency. Contact Council on 5475 7272 if you think this applies to you.

Example: Ken has a 5000 litre tank and is on a seven day schedule. The first week his household produces 2000 litres of waste water and 2300 litres in the second week. His fortnightly usage is 4300 litres, which is still less than the capacity of his tank. Ken would be able to switch to a fortnightly service and reduce his costs by half.

How waterwise are your appliances?

The appliances installed in your home can make a big difference to the amount of waste water you produce.

You can check the water efficiency ratings of the appliances in your home by going to the WELS product database at www.waterrating.gov.au/consumers. Simply enter the make and model of your WELS rated appliance to see how efficient it is.

WELS is Australia's water efficiency labelling scheme that requires showers, taps, flow controllers, toilets, urinals, washing machines and dishwashers to be registered and labelled with their water efficiency.

Generally a higher WELS rating means lower water use. However, as the table below shows, there are huge variants even within star ratings, so it's worth checking how your appliances stack up.

Usage in litres of WELS rated products					
1★	2★	3★	4★	5★	6★
Showers (per minute)					
16	9.1-12	4.5-9	–	–	–
Taps (per minute)					
14-16	9.1-9.7	7.5-9.5	6.1-9	4.5-8	1.5-6
Toilets (per average flush)					
5-5.5	–	3.5-4	3.1-3.5	3	–
Washing machine front load (per wash)					
–	–	44-123	42-102	57-64	–
Washing machine top load (per wash)					
122-89	80-172	71-139	56-103	–	–
Dishwasher (per cycle)					
8.5-23	12.2-20	8.1-20	6.7-16	10.5-12.3	14.1

Examples given in the table (above) show minimum and maximum usage for WELS rated products as of 1 August 2013. Product information is updated on the WELS product database daily – www.waterrating.gov.au/consumers.

Toilets

Old single flush toilets use around 12 litres per flush. Dual flush toilets can reduce water use dramatically, using just 6 litres for a full flush and 3 litres for a half flush.

It may even be worth considering a toilet with an integrated hand basin to save even more water.

Greywater

Greywater is waste water from the bath, shower, hand basin and laundry.

Laundry water can be diverted for reuse on lawns and gardens without council approval. Kitchen, bath and shower greywater is only suitable for reuse when using an approved treatment plant.

You will need a Council permit before installing either:

- a greywater diversion device
- a greywater treatment system.

You do not need a permit for manual bucketing or connecting a flexible hose to a washing machine outlet.

For more information about on-site sewerage and greywater diversion permits, visit council's website or call the customer service centre.

Your household water use

Details	
Number of people in your household	

Toilets	
Single (old)	12 litres per flush
Dual (new)	4.5 litres average flush
Type of flush unit	
Daily total in litres	

Calculated as number of people in your household x 5 flushes per day x litres per flush.

Showers	
Old	15 litres per minute
AAA rated	8.5 litres per minute
Type of shower head	
Total showers per day	
Shower time (minutes)	
Daily total in litres	

Calculated as shower rose type x total showers x shower time: eg 8.5 x 4 showers x 5 = 170 litres.

Dishwasher	
2.5 star rating	18 litres per wash
3.5 star rating	14 litres wash
4.5 star rating	10.5 litres per wash
Dishwasher star rating	
Daily total in litres	

Calculated when dishwasher used daily and when full.

Total daily usage	

Waste water generated	
Your holding tank capacity in litres	
Weekly (total x seven)	
4 weekly (total x 28)	

Tips for reducing waste water

- Fix all leaking taps – a dripping tap can send on average 300 litres per week to your holding tank.
- Check the seals on your tank to ensure rainwater cannot enter.
- Divert stormwater away from your tank if possible.
- Install AAA rated shower heads – these can save around 8 litres of water per minute.
- Take short showers rather than baths.
- Install dual flush units to toilets.
- Install aerators in kitchen and vanity taps.
- Divert washing machine water into the garden.
- Install a greywater diversion system (council permit required).

Going on holiday?

You can put your service on hold if you are away from your property for an extended period of time (six weeks minimum). Contact Council's Customer Service Centre for more details.

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