

Waterwise home gardens checklist

Use this waterwise checklist to water your garden efficiently.

1. Water efficiently

- ☐ Use smart watermark products (smart watermark is a not-for-profit labelling scheme of water efficient products).
- ☐ Develop a watering schedule that is adjusted with weather.
 - 💧 Water between 5–10 am.
 - 💧 Encourage deep root growth by watering slower, longer and less frequently.
- ☐ Set irrigation timer for a maximum of 2 hours or link it to a moisture/rain sensor (if relevant).

2. Regular maintenance

- ☐ Regularly maintain your garden:
 - 💧 control weeds
 - 💧 apply mulch
 - 💧 check for leaks and blocked nozzles in your irrigation system (if relevant)
 - 💧 aerate soil
 - 💧 ensure watering is as needed, and that appropriate adjustments are made with weather.
- ☐ Keep grass at least 3 cm high (where practical).
- ☐ Mow outside the heat of the day.
- ☐ Keep mower blades sharp.

Whizzy's waterwise tip:

Plan then plant a waterwise garden, choosing waterwise plants and grouping plants with similar water, soil and sun needs together.

***Check with your water service provider about local water restrictions and only water your garden when permitted.**



Tips for efficient watering



Water only when needed

Signs to look for: grass doesn't spring back when walked on, plant leaves start showing signs of wilting, or soil is difficult to penetrate with a sharp object (e.g. a screwdriver).

Grass generally needs watering about 5 mm per week in the wet season and 20 mm per week in the dry season.



Water only where needed

Don't set sprinklers to water over paths or buildings.

Direct water at the root zone, not at the leaves.



Water early morning

Try to water between 5 am and 10 am—when the sun is low, winds are calm, and temperatures are cool. Less water is lost to evaporation during these times. Avoid watering in the evening as plants can remain wet overnight, providing the right conditions for fungal diseases to develop.



Watch the weather.

Hold off on watering if rain is forecast or if it is raining.

Waterwise active playing surfaces checklist



Use this waterwise checklist to water active playing surfaces, like sporting grounds, efficiently.

1. Develop a management plan

- ☐ Nominate a manager to set tasks and responsibilities for managing and watering the playing surface.
- ☐ Develop a site map showing location of flow controllers, sprinklers etc.
- ☐ Set out tasks and responsibilities.

2. Water efficiently

- ☐ Use smart watermark products (smart watermark is a not-for-profit labelling scheme of water efficient products).
- ☐ Develop a base watering schedule that is adjusted with weather and field usage.
 - 💧 Water between 5–10 am.
 - 💧 Encourage deep root growth by watering slower, longer and less frequently.
 - 💧 Apply heavy irrigation on a rotation when the field is not in use to promote deep root growth.
- ☐ Set irrigation timer for a maximum of 2 hours or link it to a moisture/rain sensor.
- ☐ Space water sprinklers/emitters to apply water evenly.
- ☐ If possible, have a separate water meter so you can track your water usage.

The tuna can test

Place 6-8 cans randomly throughout your lawn and record how long it takes to fill the majority of the cans about 1 cm, which is about 10 mm of water.

With this information, you can plan how long you should water each week and check water is applied uniformly. If the cans don't fill up evenly, individual sprinkler nozzles might need adjustment.



3. Regular maintenance

- ☐ Develop a schedule for regular maintenance to:
 - 💧 check for leaks and blocked nozzles
 - 💧 check sensors (if relevant)
 - 💧 aerate soil (this is recommended up to four times a year in heavily used sports grounds)
 - 💧 dethatch grass
 - 💧 apply wetting agents.
- ☐ Keep a weekly logbook of water consumption so you can monitor and adjust your watering schedule.
- ☐ Set up an auditing system to:
 - 💧 check watering rate and distribution using the 'tuna can' test
 - 💧 ensure watering is as needed, and that appropriate adjustments are made with weather and field usage.
- ☐ Keep grass at least 3 cm high (where practical).
- ☐ Mow outside the heat of the day.
- ☐ Keep mower blades sharp.

Whizzy's waterwise tips:

Water only **when** needed

- 💧 Signs to look for: grass doesn't spring back when walked on and/or soil is difficult to penetrate with a sharp object (e.g. a screwdriver).
- 💧 Grass generally needs watering about 5 mm per week in the wet season and 20 mm per week in the dry season.

Water only **where** needed

- 💧 Don't set sprinklers to water over paths or buildings.
- 💧 Try to schedule irrigation to minimise playing on wet soils.

