Water Challenge

Welcome to the desertSMART Water Challenge! This challenge aims to connect you to the amount of water that you use each week, and encourages a personal commitment to water use reduction. How water smart are you?

Task 1: Learn how to read your water bills.

For this task you'll need your latest water bill and the water fact sheet. If you don't get water bills, you can ask your landlord/rental agency for a copy of the latest bill or you can use the example on the Water Fact Sheet.

What is your household's average daily and weekly water use (from the last billing quarter):

L/day _____L/week _____

Compared to the average Alice Springs household, do you think this is?

- ☐ Less than average
- ☐ About average
- ☐ Greater than average

Task 2: Time your showers for 1 week! Aim for 4mins or less and record your times. Encourage your household members to do the same.

- ☐ Day 1 Time_____
- ☐ Day 2 Time_____
- ☐ Day 3 Time_____
- ☐ Day 4 Time_____
- ☐ Day 5 Time_____
- ☐ Day 6 Time_____
- ☐ Day 7 Time_____

- ☐ This will assist you completing task 4

Task 3: 11% Alice Springs household water use is wasted in leaks. Learn how to read your water meter AND do a leak check. Fix any leaks you find.

Read the Water Fact Sheets and follow the instructions to work out how to complete this task.

Current meter reading: _____

Do you have any leaks? Yes/No

L/minute being wasted? _____ L/min

L per day being wasted? _____ L/day

Task 4: Estimate you personal water use for 1 week (not including garden)

Showers: An inefficient showerhead can use more than 20L of water every minute while an efficient WELS 3 star rated averages 9L every minute.

no. showers _____ x no. minutes _____ x 20L =

Washing dishes:

Dishwasher: An older model dishwasher will use approximately 45 L of water per load. A new energy efficient dishwasher will use less than 20 L of water per load.

no. loads per week_____ x no. L _____ =

Handwashing: The average kitchen sink holds 35 L water.

no. loads per week _____ x 35 L _____ =

Washing Clothes: Older washing machines use approx. 160 L per load, and high-efficiency washing machines use approx. 70L of water per load. Check the specifications of your machine to calculate.

No. load per week_____ x no. L _____ =

Toilet: an old-style single flush toilet can use up to 12 L of water in one flush, whereas more water efficient dual flush toilets average less than 4 L.

No. flushes per day_____ x no. L _____ x 7=

Drinking/Cooking: You should consume approx 2 L per day, plus add 1L for cooking = 21 L per week

Total the results: I use approx. _____ L per week!

Water Commitment

I, _____

commit to reducing my water use by _____%

by taking the following actions:

_____

_____

_____

_____

My/our current daily average: _____**litres/day**
My/our new average: _____**litres/day**