# The Water Guardians program

## Always learning for a thriving Tasmania

**At home activity pack**

Dear parents and carers,

We are excited to share with you what your child has learned during our Water Guardians water literacy program at school!

In this pack, you'll find simple messages about saving water, ways to talk with your child about what they've learned, and some fun activities to do together at home.

## What have we learned?

In our program, we learned how important water is, and what we can do to look after it in our environment and at home. Here are the key messages your child has picked up:

### 1. The importance of effective wastewater (sewage) management

Proper sewage treatment is crucial for protecting human health, aquatic life, preserving ecosystems and protecting drinking water sources. Sewage can contain harmful bacteria, and other microorganisms that can cause disease. We must take care to look after our sewerage systems and avoid blockages by only flushing the 3Ps: Pee, Poo and (toilet) Paper.

### 2. The role of habitat and drinking water catchment protection in water quality

Preserving natural habitats and protecting water catchment areas is vital for maintaining clean water in our environment. Healthy ecosystems act as natural filters, reducing pollutants and sediments entering our waterways. To safeguard our water sources, we need to get to know our local drinking water sources, join local land care or catchment protection groups, hold community re-vegetation or clean-up days.

### 3. Water conservation is everyone's responsibility

By working together and adopting water-saving practices, we can significantly reduce water use and protect our precious water sources. Simple actions like having shorter showers, turning the tap off while brushing teeth, and fixing leaks can all add up to make a big difference.

## Conversation starters

Keep the conversation flowing at home:

### Why is treating sewage important?

Discuss how untreated sewage affects the environment and health.

### What is a water catchment area, and how do natural features help clean water?

Explain what water catchments are and their role in keeping waterways clean. Talk about how wetlands, forests, and plants naturally filter water.

### How can we save water outdoors, and why should we fix leaks quickly?

Share ideas for water-efficient gardening. Discuss how even small leaks can waste a lot of water over time.


Thank you for supporting your child's learning journey. By talking about water and doing activities together you are helping to reinforce the valuable lessons they've learned about water. Together, we can make a difference in protecting the water in Tasmania for our future generations!

If you have any questions or would like to share your water literacy activity experiences, please feel free to reach out by emailing communityprograms@taswater.com.au or to find out more about your water please visit www.taswater.com.au.

## Activity 1

# Design a water-wise home

### Your mission

1. Draw a house and its surroundings on a large piece of paper. Add features that help conserve water and use alternative water sources, such as:

- Rainwater tanks
- Drought-resistant plants
- Greywater recycling system (some houses re-use water from their washing machines and showers (greywater) to water their gardens or flush their toilets instead of using more tap water).
- Low-flow taps and showerheads

2. Label each feature and explain how it helps save water or use alternative water sources.
3. Display your water-wise home design in your classroom or at home.

## Activity 2

# Water conservation word scramble

Unscramble these words related to water conservation. Answers can be found at the bottom of the sheet.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| OSHREW MITER | → | |
| YREG TAWER | → | |
| KAEL IXF | → | |
| TERAM NAKT | → | |
| WOL WFLO | → | |

## Activity 3

# Build a mini water filter

### Materials

Plastic bottle; gravel, sand, cotton balls (or any household item that you think might work for a filter - but check with a grown-up first!); dirty water

### Steps

1. Cut the bottom off a plastic bottle
2. Turn the top of the bottle upside down, sit it in the bottom half of the bottle, and layer materials inside the top: for example cotton, sand, gravel
3. Pour dirty water through your filter
4. Observe how the water becomes cleaner, as it drips through into the bottom of the bottle
5. Explain to your family how this relates to natural water filtration in water catchment areas. (HINT: This experiment mimics natural filtration in catchment areas. In nature, as water moves through layers of soil, rock, and vegetation, it gets naturally cleaned. For example, when rainwater seeps through forest floors or wetlands, it's filtered by various natural materials, just like this bottle filter!)

## Activity 4

# Water-saving scavenger hunt

Find and document these water-saving features in your home or school:

- A dual-flush toilet
- A water-efficient washing machine
- A dripping tap to be fixed (or no dripping taps!)
- A native plant in the garden
- A container for collecting water while waiting for the shower or tap to warm up

For each item found, explain how it helps conserve water or protect our waterways. Do you know where your tap water comes from?

Answer

## Activity 2 - Water conservation word scramble

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| OSHREW MITER | → | SHOWER TIMER |
| YREG TAWER | → | GREYWATER |
| KAEL IXF | → | FIX LEAKS |
| TERAM NAKT | → | WATER TANK |
| WOL WFLO | → | LOW FLOW |