

Water Usage facts

**Sustainable Living Practices***Learning from the past to work towards a more sustainable future***Water usage data sheet (Australian Government WELS – Water Efficiency Labelling and Standards Act)**

Location	Activity	Use rate in Litres (L)	Minutes per use (min)	Total used per use (L)
<b>Kitchen</b>	Washing dishes	10L		10L
	Washing food	4L / min		
	Cooking	1L		1L
	Drinking water	0.2L		0.2L
	Dishwasher	13L		13L
<b>Bathroom</b>	Normal shower rose	20L / min		
	Water saver shower rose - 3 star	7L / min		
	¾ full bath	150L		150L
	½ full bath	100L		100L
	Cleaning teeth	4L / min		
	Washing hands / face	4L / min		
	Shaving	4L / min		
	Toilet ½ flush	4.5L		4.5L
	Toilet full flush	9L		9L
	Cleaning	10L		10L
<b>Laundry</b>	Twin tub washing machine	90L		90L
	Wringer	60L		60L
	Front loader	60L		60L
	Small top loader	70L		70L
	Large top loader	100L		100L
	Hand washing	40L		40L
	Cleaning	10L		10L
<b>Garden &amp; outdoors</b>	Water garden	20L / min		
	Washing car	20L / min		
	Washing animals	20L / min		
	Cleaning	20L / min		
	Pool top up	20L / min		

<http://www.waterrating.gov.au/about/index.html>

WELS Regulator  
GPO Box 787  
Canberra  
ACT 2601  
1800 552 008 (toll-free)

## Living today

### Australian Bureau of Statistics 2004

#### Water use and conservation

In October 2004, 28% of South Australian households had a rainwater tank plumbed into their dwelling and 37% reported they had a reduced flow shower head. Households that owned their dwellings were more likely to have these water-saving features than households that rented their dwellings.

Only 15% of households had front loading automatic washing machines, while those with higher incomes were more likely to have them than those with lower incomes.

In the 12 months to October 2004, 46% of households hand watered a garden and/or lawn, 35% used a fixed sprinkler system, 27% used a movable sprinkler and 10% reported using a timer. Hand watering was the only method used by 24% of households to water a garden and/or lawn. Fixed sprinkler systems were more likely to be used by dwelling owners or by households that had higher incomes.

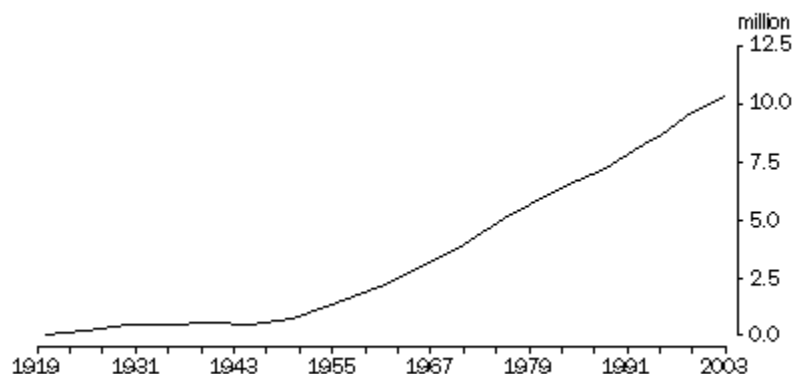
Households' water conservation actions taken during the year included adjusting water levels when washing clothes or dishes (61% of households), using mulch (59%), taking less time when showering (54%), watering gardens and lawns using a soaking method (41%), recycling water (36%), planting drought-tolerant plants or lawn (31%), not watering lawns (17%), and removing or reducing the size of lawns (16%).

Most of the water conservation actions undertaken by households in the 12 months to October 2004 had also been undertaken previously. Adjusting the water level when washing clothes or dishes, was the most common action taken for the first time in the last 12 months (13% of households).

#### Car ownership

Since the 1950s the number of private cars has risen dramatically, and continues to do so (see graph below). In 2003 there were 10.4 million registered cars and station wagons, compared with 769,000 in 1950 and 76,000 in 1920. This dramatic rise in private car ownership has been accompanied by a corresponding shift away from the use of urban public transport.

22.32 NUMBER OF REGISTERED CARS AND STATION WAGONS



Source: Motor Vehicle Census, Australia (9309.0).

## Living in the early 20<sup>th</sup> Century

### Queensland House (extracts from text)

#### Bedroom

The bedroom also had a washstand with a porcelain toilet set comprising the jug or ewer, bowl or basin, chamber pot, soap dishes and toothbrush holder. Waste water was emptied outside. Toilet ware was of a single pattern, either coloured or all white, and might be inexpensive.

#### Kitchen

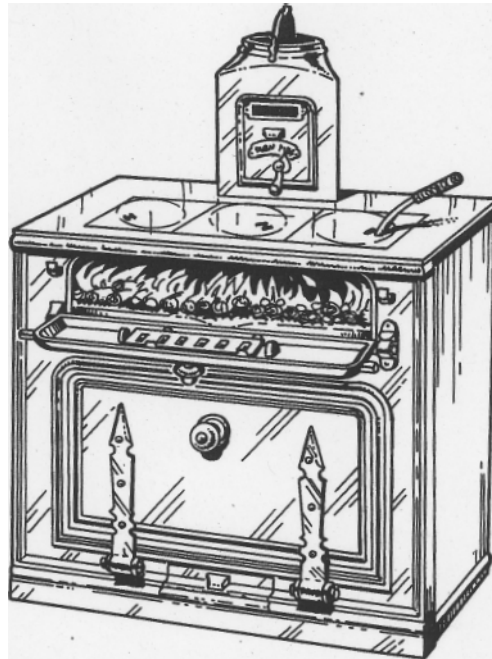
Mrs Wicken argued that it was best to buy fewer utensils of good to medium quality because this meant less maintenance: six saucepans were enough - agate iron pans were light and easier to clean but were more expensive than iron - and two small pans were required for milk and white sauce in addition to a two gallon iron boiler or stockpot. Other necessary utensils were: a small frying pan for omelettes and pancakes; a large frying pan; a French frying kettle; 3 French cooking knives; 2 wooden spoons; 2 iron spoons; a paste board and rolling pin; a tub for flour; a bread pan, filter and 2 baking sheets; a sieve; a colander; a tub for washing dishes; and, a plate rack.



## Cooking

Though cooking was a time-consuming skill, there were a number of technical developments in the second half of the nineteenth century which assisted the housewife:

- lighter and easier-to-clean cooking utensils made of tin or enamel instead of iron
- the mincer, which became part of basic kitchen equipment
- roller-mill processed flour which went further, was whiter, finer, stronger and more able to absorb moisture (mid 1880s)

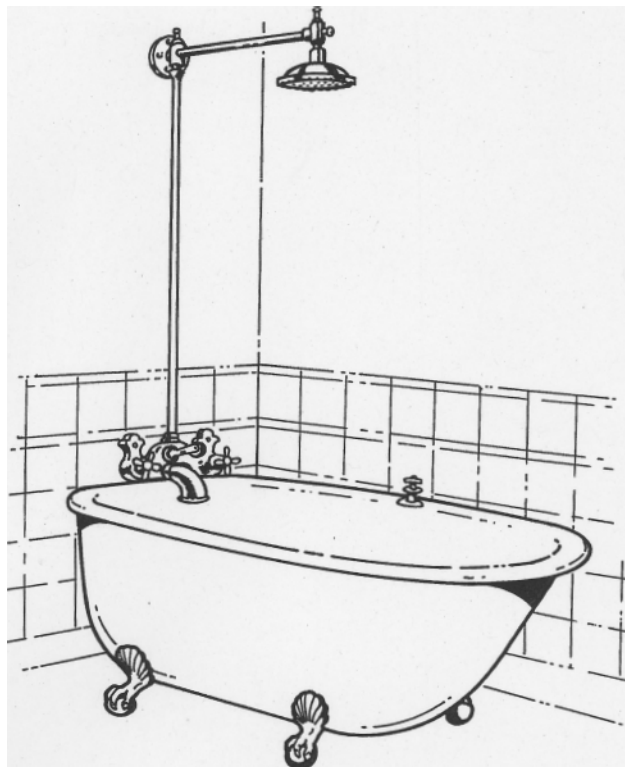


**Bathroom**

The bathroom, in the modern sense, did not feature regularly until the last part of the nineteenth century, and even then the facilities were modest.

As running water was available in most Australian cities from the 1860s, it was feasible to have a bathroom. However, in Queensland this was often no more than a built-in corner of the back verandah or beneath the house.

The primary factor in design of the bathroom was practicality. Surfaces had to be durable, hygienic and easily cleaned. The model middle-class bathroom included a bath, either on claw feet or set in a solid pine surround, panelled and varnished to match the wash basin and cupboard. A few of the wealthy had showers. Most baths were made of enamelled cast iron, though some were of copper, coated with zinc.

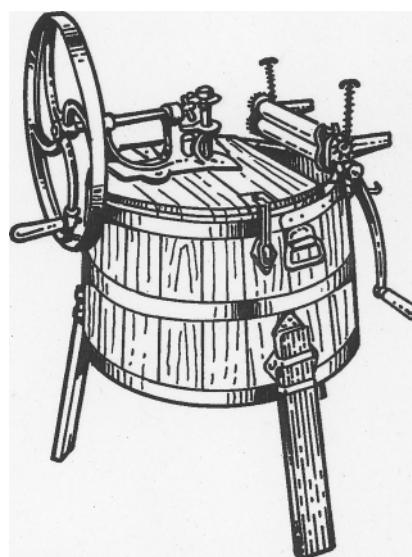
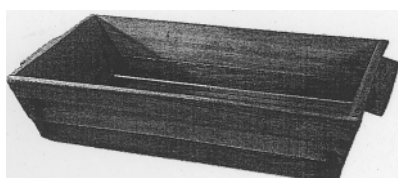
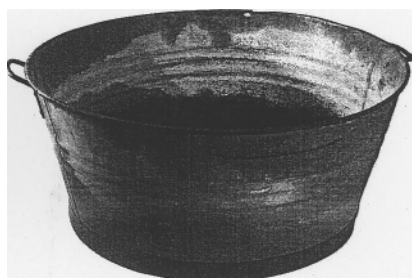


## Personal

Water had to be heated on the kitchen stove and carried to where it was needed. This meant that bathing, other than bedroom ablution, was a less frequent ritual than today. The earth closet was separate, usually placed outside and serviced by the night cart. The toilet itself comprised a wooden box with a lid and a tin can. The superior model was a water closet of porcelain, with a wooden seat and cast-iron cistern, often encased in varnished timber. Though generally unadorned, the walls of the best closets could be decorated with tiles arranged in the style of dado and frieze. Colours were unspectacular, usually cream, buff or light brown. Washable ('sanitary') wallpapers were in use by the 1880s.

## Laundry

The laundry was also located outside or underneath the house. Conditions were improving in Queensland, so that a well-equipped laundry with its high-arched fireplace might include: the copper for boiling clothes; 3 or 4 large galvanised-iron washing tubs, sometimes fixed; a small wringing machine screwed to the rim of the wooden rinsing tub; a wooden bench or stool to support the tubs; pegs and peg bag; a round smooth stick to press the clothes down while boiling; a clothes basket; and, several lengths of clothes line. There could also be a washing board and a pronged stick called a washing dolly to stir the clothes.



*Washing equipment:  
(far right) washing  
machine (below) wash  
tub and draining tub*

**Washing day process**

The recommended cleaning process was long and complex:

1. sorting
2. stain removing
3. soaking (well-soaped and soaked all night)
4. washing (well-rubbed in warm soap and water)
5. boiling (three-quarters to an hour in soap and soda for each load, pillowcases turned inside out and the process repeated)
6. rinsing (in hot water with borax)
7. blueing (rinsing in water containing blue to make the whites appear whiter)
8. wringing (by hand or wringer)
9. drying (preferably on a clothes line outside)
10. cleaning (of implements used in the washing)
11. starching of men's shirts, collars, frills, caps, aprons etc; maybe a thin starch mixture for underwear
12. mangling (of things not ironed)
13. ironing (by flat iron, but possibly a box iron for starched things)
14. airing

**Daily routine**

The daily routine, which was to be performed within the weekly round, included bed making, dusting, stove cleaning, cooking, serving meals, shopping and washing up. This example is from Mrs. Becton:

1. shutters and windows opened (curtains drawn)
2. kitchen range brushed and cleaned
3. fire lighted
4. kettle put on
5. sitting room in daily use got ready for breakfast: rug rolled up, table cover shaken and folded, room swept (using tea leaves), grate cleaned (if winter), fire lighted, room dusted, cloth laid for breakfast
7. hall swept: doorsteps cleaned, brass handle of door polished
8. boots and knives cleaned before breakfast cooked (servants' breakfast, if applicable)
9. breakfast
10. beds stripped (if servants, they begin this while the family is still breakfasting)
11. clearing away breakfast things, washing up
12. bedroom slops taken away, jugs filled, beds made, rooms tidied and dusted
13. cooking
14. cleaning of rooms arranged for that day
15. getting midday meal, clearing away table sewing, washing up
16. tidy kitchen
17. mistress - calls
18. getting tea or dinner: cooking, serving and clearing
19. emptying slops in bedroom
20. taking up of hot water for the night from the stove