

Information and rebate criteria

On average, around 20 per cent of total household water usage occurs in the laundry, with some washing machines using as much as 176 litres of water per wash.

Now there's a simple way to help reduce the amount of water you use to wash your clothes. Buy a new water efficient washing machine and receive \$200 from your local council as a 'thank you' for your water saving actions.

Water Efficient Washing Machines

Washing machine manufacturers, in Australia and overseas, are now producing water efficient products that not only save water but are also gentler on your clothes, offer more program options, have a better washing action, higher spin speeds and are cheaper to run in terms of water usage and energy.

Depending on the make and model, these new machines can help you save around 21,000 litres of water every year, with the most efficient using as little as 49 litres per wash. Over a year, this means an average household water bill could be reduced by around \$25.

Water Efficiency Ratings

Washing machines, dishwashers and other household products have previously been rated under the national Water Conservation Rating and Labelling Scheme run by Water Services Association of Australia's (WSAA). This involved voluntarily displaying a sticker showing up to five 'A's. The more 'A's the product had, the more water efficient.

In July 2005, the Australian Government introduced a new Water Efficiency Labeling Standards (WELS) for household water-using products. This is based on star rating system # up to a maximum of six stars. The more stars a product has, the more water efficient it is.

As of 1 July 2006, this new WELS scheme became mandatory and the previous 'A' rating system was discontinued (although retailers have until December 2007 to sell pre-existing stock featuring the old stickers).

New Washing Machine Rebate Program

To help residents be more water efficient, Gosford City and Wyong Shire councils have launched a new Washing Machine Rebate program.

The program came into effect from 24 May 2006 and will initially run for 12 months. It could potentially save about 19 million litres of water a year.

Gosford City and Wyong Shire residents, whose house is connected to the town water supply, can apply for a \$200 rebate on the purchase of a new water efficient washing machine. This includes machines which are rated with five As under the previous WSAA system or four stars under the new WELS system.

If you purchase your new water efficient washing machine on lay-by or credit or with interest free payment terms, you can still apply for the rebate.

To claim your rebate, you will need to:

- Complete the attached rebate application form

- Attach a copy of the original purchase receipt for your washing machine
- Send your completed application form to your local council.

There is a limit of one rebate per household. Subject to verification, you should receive your rebate within 30 days of Gosford City or Wyong Shire council receiving your application. The rebate will be paid by cheque.

It is your responsibility to ensure that the washing machine you purchase meets the terms and conditions of the Washing Machine Rebate Program. For more information speak to your retailer.

This water efficiency rating system should not be confused with the stars used in the energy efficiency rating system for white goods

Terms and Conditions

Please read the following terms and conditions before signing the application form.

Rebates will be granted on the following basis:

1. The washing machine is purchased new on or after 24 May 2006.
2. Council will only pay one (1) rebate per water consumption account assessment number to a maximum of \$200.
3. Further rebates will be considered under the following circumstances:
 - a) Where a water consumption account assessment number provides for a number of discrete residential dwellings eg. Strata titled units, mobile home sites, permanent caravan site, retirement villages, dual occupancy units, etc, a separate rebate will be provided for each dwelling subject to proof being provided that provisions for a washing machine exist within the discrete unit.
 - b) Upon purchase of a property that has previously received a rebate.
 - c) For new tenants of properties who provide proof of a minimum 6 month lease arrangement
4. The washing machine must be water rated four star or five 'A' or above by the Water Efficiency Labeling Standards (WELS) or the Water Services Association of Australia (WSAA) respectively on the date of purchase.
5. The rebate applies to Water Ratings only.
6. The washing machine was purchased for personal use and not for resale, commercial or lease/rental options.
7. A tax invoice (or copy) of receipt, stating the date and place of purchase, the make, model and serial number of the machine, is to be forwarded with the application. Tax invoices will not be returned.
8. Application forms will not be accepted if they are incomplete or do not have proof of purchase attached.
9. Customers required to install a washing machine in order to comply with the requirements of a BASIX Certificate are not eligible for a rebate.

All rebate participants must agree to:

1. Gosford City and Wyong Shire councils reserving the right to conduct field inspections to verify installations.
2. Payments of rebates will be by cheque only and made payable to the rebate applicant.
3. Gosford City and Wyong Shire councils will not be responsible for items lost or delayed in the mail, nor any remittance delayed due to incorrect rebate applications.
4. Gosford City and Wyong Shire councils do not guarantee the performance or quality of equipment.
5. Gosford City and Wyong Shire councils will not be held liable, nor their employees, for any loss, damage, expense and liability resulting from the lose, destruction or damage of property arising out of or in any way connected with the installation of the washing machine or the washing machine itself. The applicant agrees that they will indemnify and keep indemnified the Councils from any claim or liability arising out of, or in relation to, the washing machine that is subject to this application to the extent that any claim or liability is not caused by the Councils negligence or breach of this application or any other term implied by law.
6. Applicants will be required to repay the rebate if any of these terms and conditions are found to have been breached.
7. Gosford City and Wyong Shire councils reserve the right, at their sole and absolute discretion and at any time, to change any or all of the Terms and Conditions for the rebate program or to cancel the rebate program.

Greenhouse Gas Saving

This rebate offer is subject to assignment of all rights with respect to greenhouse gas savings to Gosford City and Wyong Shire councils.