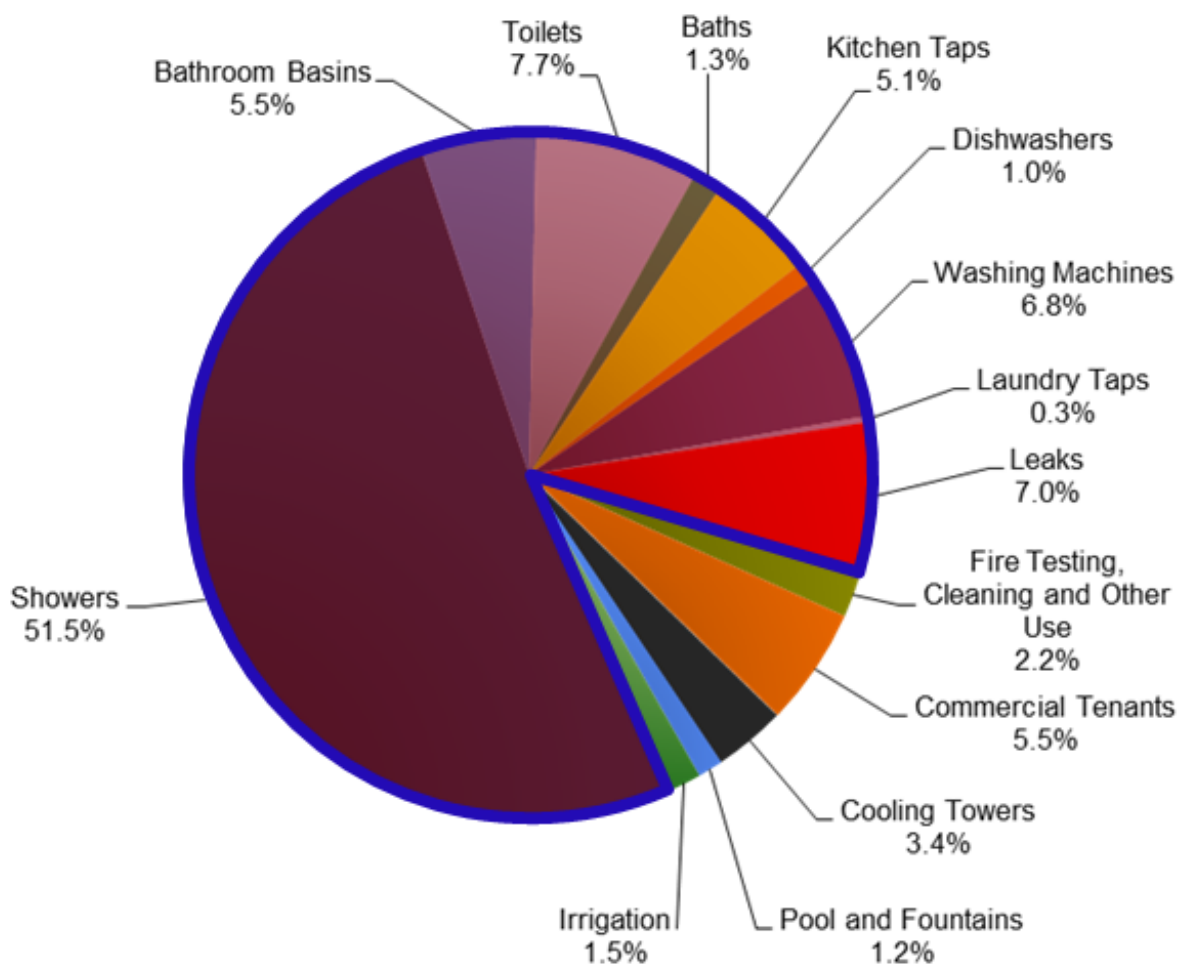


# Water Case Studies

## Common Retrofits for Reducing Water Usage

Most water usage in strata schemes is from private lots (see Figure 1). However, unless the lots have individual metering, this water usage is at the expense of the owners corporation. Individual lot metering can be costly and difficult to practically implement.



**Figure 1: Water Usage in Apartment Buildings** (Source: Smart Green Apartments, Water Efficiency Audits, City of Sydney 2013)

An effective means of reducing water usage in strata schemes is to fix leaks in private lots and have annual leak audits. These audits and upgrades on private lots can be paid for by the owners corporation, if approved at a general meeting. For example, Waterfix® is a program run by Sydney Water that offers a discount for residents of the same building that have their leaks fixed and lots audited together.

<u>Reducing Water Consumption in Apartments</u>	<p>Reducing water usage within apartments is usually the most efficient way to reduce building-wide water usage.</p> <p><b>Case Studies:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <u>Low Rise Building</u></li> <li>- <u>Miramar Apartments</u></li> <li>- <u>Parkridge Apartments</u></li> </ul>
<u>Managing and Metering Water Consumption</u>	<p>Continually monitoring water usage can help to manage consumption over time.</p> <p><b>Case Studies:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <u>Hyde Park Towers</u></li> <li>- <u>Crown Gardens</u></li> </ul>
<u>Pool retrofits</u>	<p>Both water and energy usage in pools can be saved by installing a pool blanket and using an <u>energy efficient pool pump</u>.</p> <p><b>Case Studies:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <u>Bayview, Melbourne</u></li> </ul>
<u>Rainwater Tank</u>	<p>The installation of a rain water tank can provide supplementary water to the building. This is beneficial in times of drought, when there are water restrictions. Rainwater can be used for <u>garden irrigation</u>, <u>car washing</u> and other uses depending on plumbing.</p> <p><b>Case Studies:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <u>The Horizon</u></li> </ul>
<u>Solar Hot Water Systems</u>	<p>There are many ways to make <u>hot water systems</u> more water and energy efficient. <u>Gas systems</u> save energy, and can more efficiently heat up water to prevent water wastage. Solar is a more energy efficient means of heating water. It can provide significant cost savings, however will cost more upfront than conventional systems.</p> <p><b>Case Studies:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <u>Chloe</u></li> </ul>
<u>Water-saving Garden</u>	<p>Planting <u>low water use</u> or <u>native species</u> or species in pots on your balconies or in your private garden will reduce your water consumption. They will also provide a native ecosystem for local animals, birds, frogs and lizards.</p> <p><b>Case Studies:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <u>Iora Apartments</u></li> </ul>

## Additional Resources

- [Water usage calculator, Green Strata](#)
- [Water information for residents, Green Strata](#)
- [Water information for owners, Green Strata](#)
- [Water, Your Home](#)
- [Saving water, NSW Office of Environment and Heritage](#)
- [Water efficiency, Department of the Environment and Energy](#)
- [Water rating, Australian Government](#)
- [Water wise tips, Sydney Water](#)
- [Rainwater tanks, NSW Health](#)
- [Rainwater tanks, Sydney Water](#)
- [Rainwater tank buying guide, Choice](#)