

HOW GREEN ARE YOUR OTHER ROOMS?

EXTENSION IDEAS AND ACTIVITIES FOR CLASSROOM AND HOME.

Website resources

www.neco.com.au

(Neco. Supplier of energy and water conservation products—including the 'Better Bathroom' pack—to help you 'green up' your home the simple way)

www.greenpower.gov.au

(GreenPower. National accreditation program for suppliers of renewable energy products)

www.acfonline.org.au/

(Australian Conservation Foundation. Includes a link to the Foundation's 'GreenHome' guide)

www.orer.gov.au

(Commonwealth Office of the Renewable Energy Regulator)

MORE HOUSEHOLD FACTS

You've read about ways to minimise the environmental impact of your bathroom. But what about the rest of the home? Research ways in which you could 'green up' other parts of your home. The following suggestions will get you started.

Water

- *AAAA / 4-star rated washing machines*
Save water and energy by using a AAAA / 4-star rated washing machine. Fill your washing machine up with a complete load before use.
- *Rainwater tanks*
Install a rainwater tank and connect it to your washing machine and toilet so that you don't waste precious drinking water. You can often get a rebate from State government authorities for installing rainwater tanks.

Energy

- *Drying clothes*
Use the clothesline, not the drier and wash your clothes in cold water.

Toxic substances

- *Laundry detergent*
Choose a laundry detergent that is biodegradable and phosphorus free. Laundry detergents with no 'nasties' are also fantastic for people with skin problems such as eczema and psoriasis which can be aggravated by the chemicals used in standard detergents. It is also essential to use non-toxic laundry detergents with greywater systems (water recycling) so that the water from your washing machine will not harm your garden. Reduce the amount of detergent you use. The manufacture of 100 grams of detergent (the approximate amount used per wash in top-loading machines) generates about 1.3 kilograms of greenhouse gas.
- *Bleach and cleaning products*
Instead of reaching for the bleach or the cleaning chemicals, try warm water and a microfibre cloth—this will clean most bathroom surfaces. If you need something a bit stronger, try bicarbonate of soda mixed with Castile soap. Eucalyptus oil, methylated spirits, vinegar and glycerine are all powerful non-toxic cleaning products. For recipes, download the Australian Conservation Foundation's 'GreenHome' guide (the Foundation's website is [www.acfonline.org.au/.](http://www.acfonline.org.au/))