



NPDC

# Our Water

**Kids'**  
pull-out  
activities  
inside!

be a  
**Wai  
Warrior**



*Don't waste our water.*

# Be a Wai Warrior!

Water is at the heart of our lifestyle.

We love to swim in rivers, go fishing and boating, walk along streamside walkways and grow food in our gardens.



And, of course, we get our drinking water from the environment.

We might get lots of rain in Taranaki but it drains out to sea quickly, and the water we take for drinking from our rivers and streams isn't endless.

If we're to have enough water for everyone – both people and

aquatic life – then we must take only as much water as we need.

We're looking for warriors to protect our water, and to be wise about how much we use.

Be a Wai Warrior, and don't waste our water!



We'll have more than 100,000 people in our district by 2048 – and we'll be supplying water to most of them through our water networks.



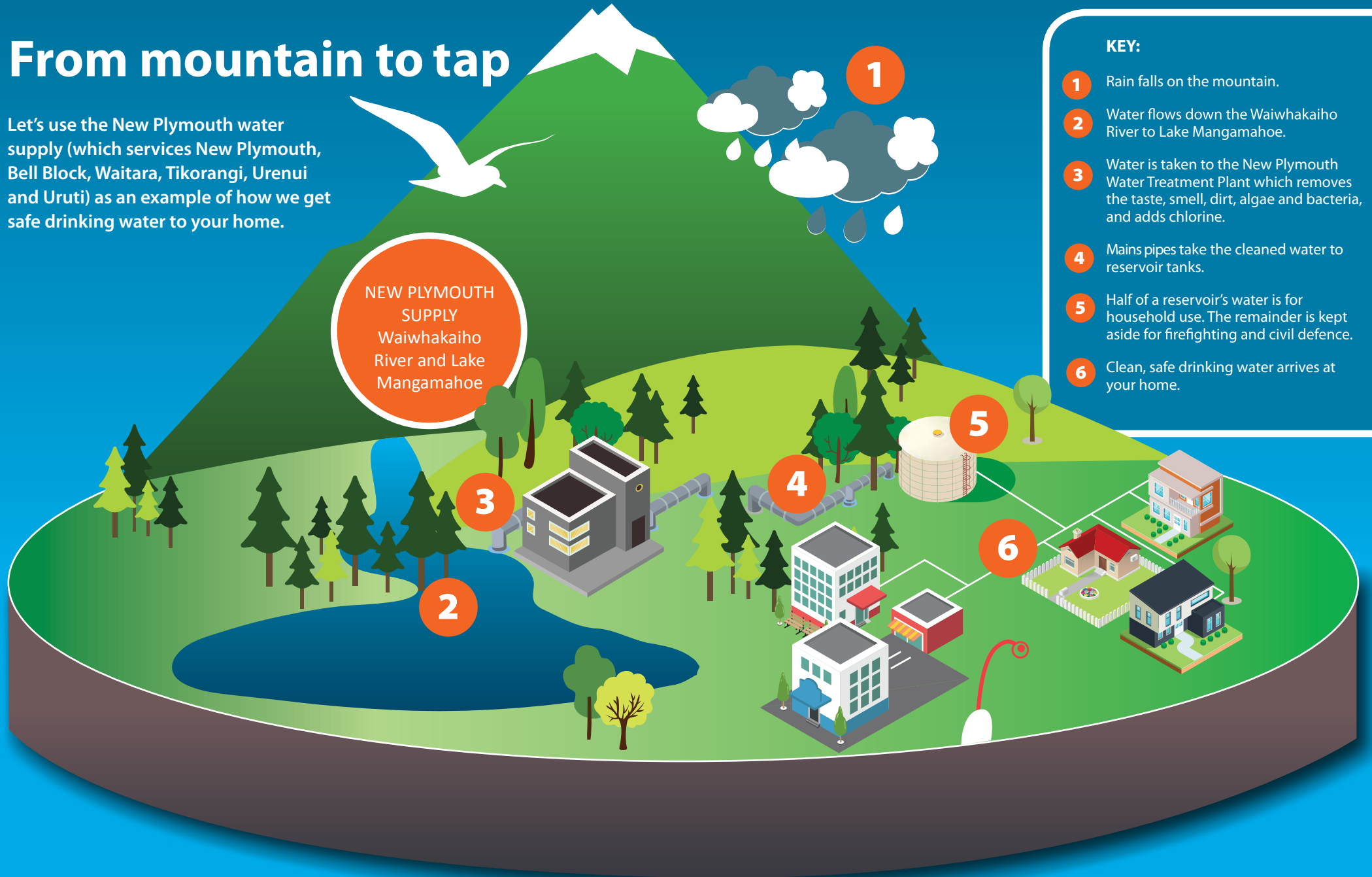
# From mountain to tap

Let's use the New Plymouth water supply (which services New Plymouth, Bell Block, Waitara, Tikorangi, Urenui and Uruti) as an example of how we get safe drinking water to your home.

NEW PLYMOUTH  
SUPPLY  
Waiwhakaiho  
River and Lake  
Mangamahoe

## KEY:

- 1 Rain falls on the mountain.
- 2 Water flows down the Waiwhakaiho River to Lake Mangamahoe.
- 3 Water is taken to the New Plymouth Water Treatment Plant which removes the taste, smell, dirt, algae and bacteria, and adds chlorine.
- 4 Mains pipes take the cleaned water to reservoir tanks.
- 5 Half of a reservoir's water is for household use. The remainder is kept aside for firefighting and civil defence.
- 6 Clean, safe drinking water arrives at your home.



# Where does our drinking water come from?

We have four water supply networks in New Plymouth District:

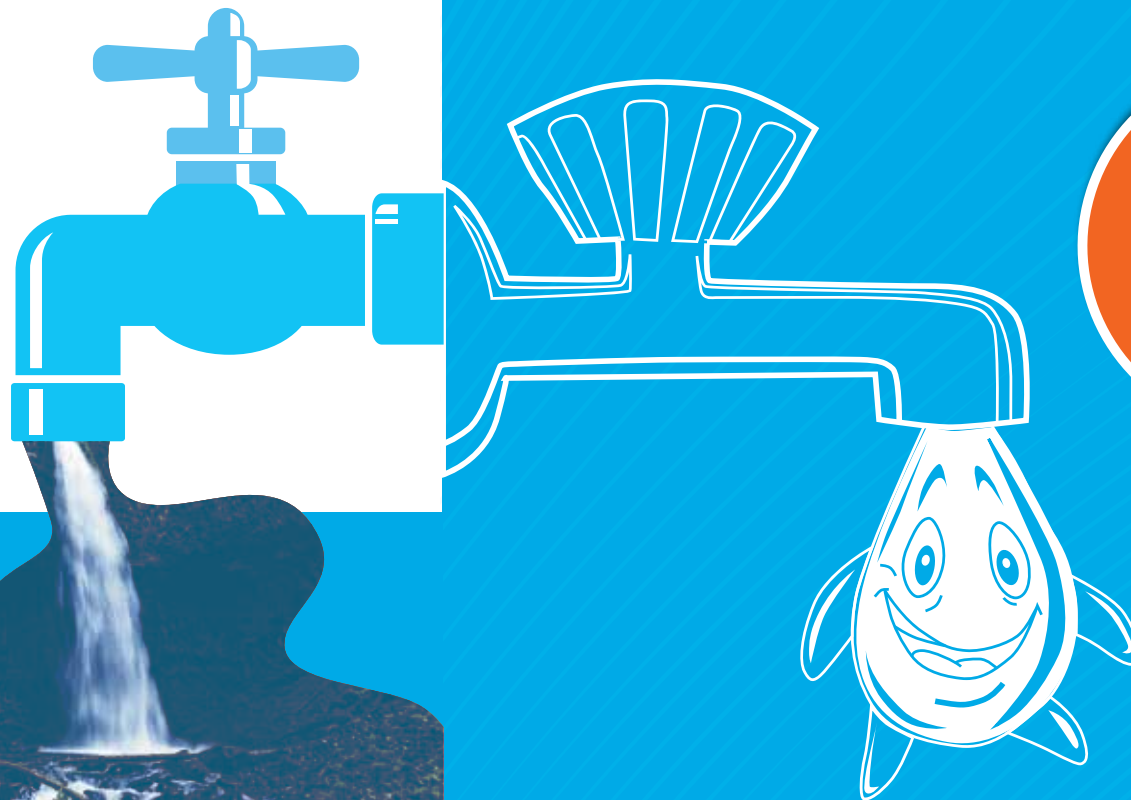
- The Ngatoro Stream supplies water for people in Inglewood.
- The Mangatete Stream supplies Okato.
- An underground aquifer supplies Ōākura.
- The Waiwhakaiho River and Lake Mangamahoe supply New Plymouth, Bell Block, Lepperton, Waitara, Tikorangi, Onaero and Urenui.

Our rivers and streams need a certain amount of water in them so that they stay fresh and cool; otherwise, the aquatic life that depend on them will suffer. That's why the amount of water we can take for our drinking water supplies is limited.

The water belongs to the rivers and streams first, and people second.

Unfortunately, we want to use the most water during summer, when the flows of our rivers and streams are at their lowest.

It costs more than \$11 million each year to provide clean and healthy water to residents – including operating treatment plants and maintaining pipes and reservoirs.



# Wai Warrior activities for kids

Get your Wai Warrior reward!

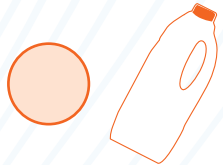
Pull me out!

# ACTIVITY TIME!

## Try Wai's milk bottle trick! (Grab an adult to help you)

You can be a Wai Warrior with this one simple task! If your toilet doesn't have a half-flush button, here's a great way to save water every time you flush!

### What you need:



A plastic one-litre milk bottle and its lid.



Dirt or sand.

First, get a milk bottle out of your recycling bin. Give it a good wash to get rid of any old milk.

Fill it with dirt or sand, then screw the lid on tight.

Open the lid of your toilet cistern. Flush the toilet and, as the water drains out of the cistern, pop your milk bottle in there – and you're done! (Just be careful to place the bottle so it doesn't interfere with the flushing mechanism - and don't forget to wash your hands.)

Now every time the toilet is flushed, **you save one litre of water**. Clever, eh?



# BE A DETECTIVE!



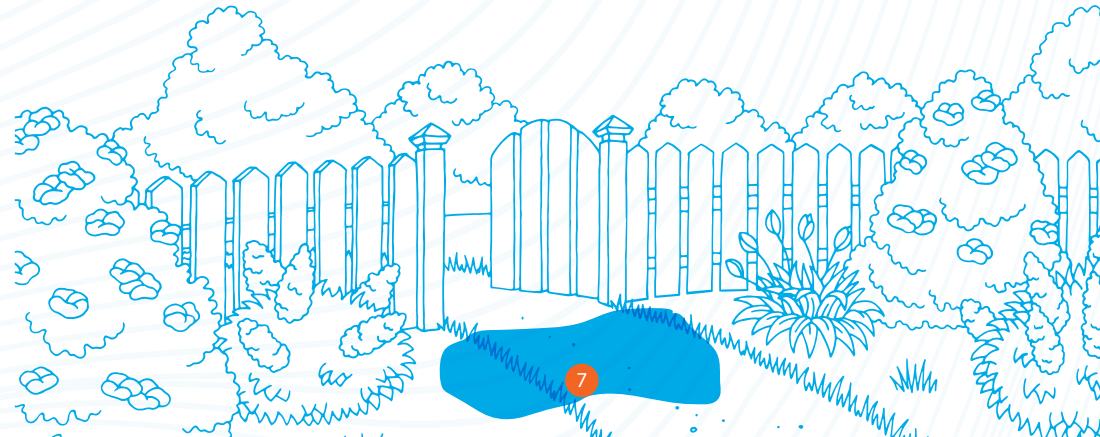
## Spot a water leak!

It's simple to spot a leaking tap – the drips of water are easy to see! But how do you spot a leak that's underground? Your house has a pipe beneath the ground that feeds water to your taps, toilet and shower. Has your pipe sprung a leak?

### Have a wander around your house with an adult and see if you can spot any of these signs:

- An unusual wet patch in the garden that doesn't dry up when it stops raining.
- An area that's mouldy, soft, green or mossy that's surrounded by dryer soil.
- Paved areas (such as driveways) cracking, rising up or slumping.
- Potholes or sink-holes appearing.
- A noticeable drop in the flow of water out of your taps.
- An ongoing sound of water going through a pipe even when no taps are running.
- Ask your parents if you have a water meter, and if its readings have suddenly risen or are steadily climbing.

Getting a leaky pipe fixed will save you heaps of water!





# BECOME A WAI WARRIOR!

Get yourself a cool cap or badge!

It's easy to save water! Tick these off when you:

- Turn off the tap when you're brushing your teeth.
- Check the taps at your house and tell an adult if they're leaking or not.
- Help wash the family car by using buckets of water and a sponge, instead of a hose.
- Clear leaves and dirt from the driveway and footpaths with a broom, instead of a hose.
- Have short showers – five minutes or less is good.
- Do the milk bottle trick on the previous page.

When you've got three or more ticks, bring this into NPDC reception on Liardet Street, New Plymouth, or a library in Ōākura, New Plymouth, Bell Block, Waitara, Urenui or Inglewood, and we'll give you a Wai Warrior reward! (While stocks last.)

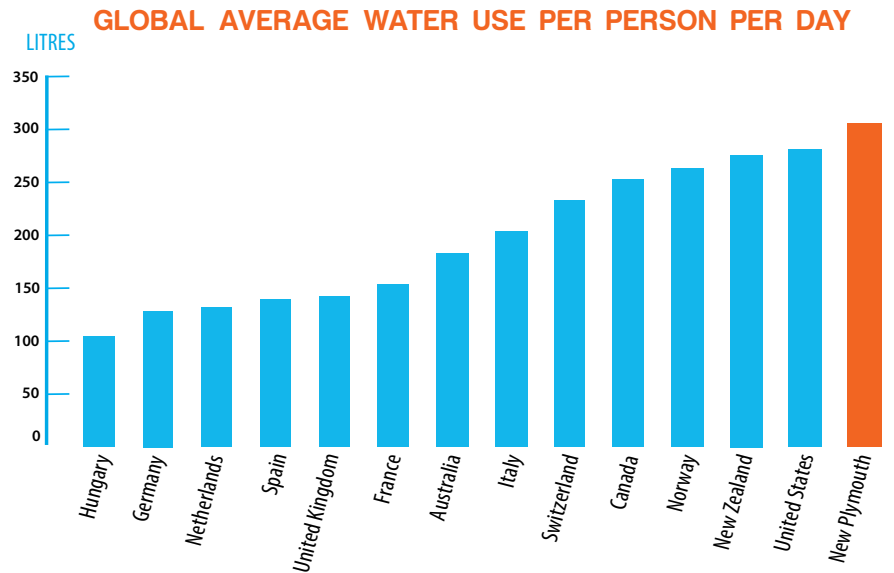
Have you got a water-saving tip? Share on Facebook a photo of you saving water with the hashtag **#waiwarrior**



## We use far too much water

Check out this chart. It shows that people in New Plymouth District use an average 309\* litres per person per day. That's a lot of water!

Our district's average water use per day is higher than the average of many countries, including New Zealand.



We have a growing population – more and more people are coming to live in our district, which is great! But we have to make sure we have enough water for everyone. At our current rate of use, eventually our demand for water will be more than our rivers and streams can provide.

To help, NPDC is investing \$135 million over 10 years to improve our water networks.

We'll have more water storage, fewer leaks from our big pipes, and better ways of tracking how much water is used across the district.

However it's better for the environment – and cheaper – if we all cut down how much water we use so that our supplies can stretch further.

\*Based on 2017/18 usage data. Does not include industrial use or leakage.

# How do we make sure there's enough water to go around?

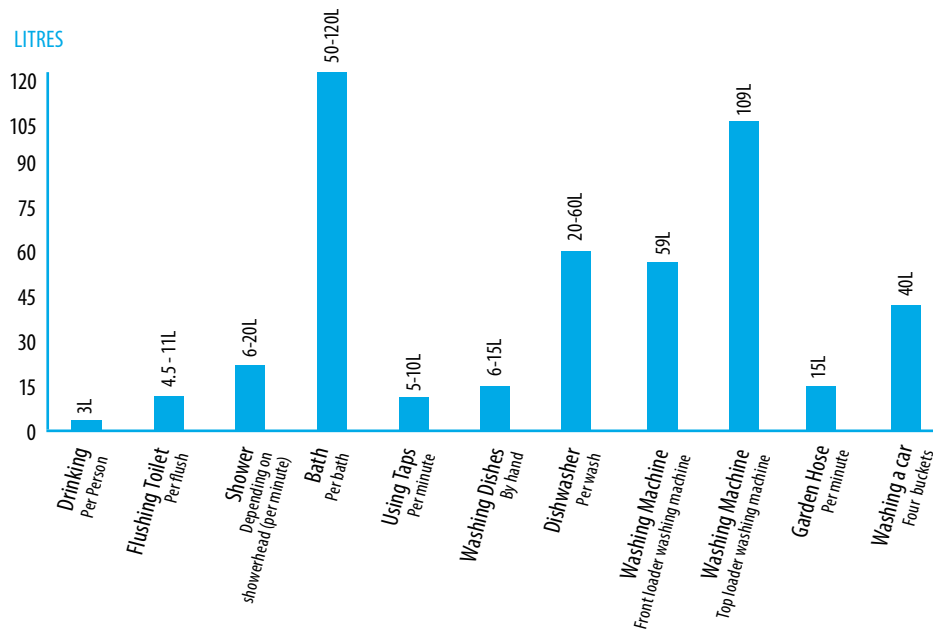
It'd be great if this year we could reach our first target: dropping our average daily water use to below the New Zealand average of 275 litres per person!

The easiest way is to cut down how much water we use around the home.

We waste a lot of water without realising it. Dripping taps, leaving taps running when we brush our teeth or wash dishes, not filling up the dishwasher or washing

machine before turning them on, taking showers that are longer than five minutes, using the hose to wash the car or house windows ... these all use heaps of water.

## AVERAGE WATER USE PER HOUSEHOLD APPLIANCE



If everyone makes small changes to their daily habits, we'll see a big drop in our district's average water use.

# What can a Wai Warrior do?

Help stop water wastage around your home by encouraging your family to do these simple things.

## INSIDE YOUR HOME

- Turn off the tap when brushing teeth or shaving.
- Put the plug in the sink when washing dishes or vegetables rather than leaving the tap running.
- Have short showers, not baths.
- Swap your showerhead for a water-efficient one. This could halve the amount of water you use while showering!
- If your toilet doesn't have a half-flush button, put a one-litre bottle of sand or dirt in the toilet cistern so you use less water when you flush.
- Fill up the washing machine or dishwasher before using them, or use the half-load switch.
- When buying a new washing machine, consider a front-loader - they use less water and soap powder. You could save about 50 litres of water per wash!



We need just 50 litres per person to meet our basic water needs each day. In our district we use an average of 309 litres per person per day.



# The odds and evens of water savings

## OUTSIDE YOUR HOME

- Use a good mulch to keep moisture in the soil. A garden without mulch could lose 70 per cent of its water through evaporation!
- Dig down 10cm: if the soil's moist, it doesn't need water.
- Soak – don't spray. Water for no longer than 30 minutes every three or four days to encourage plant roots to grow deeper, so the plant can survive dry spells.
- Water in the evening or first thing in the morning, and only when it isn't windy, so that more water soaks into the soil.
- Say 'no' to the hose and use a bucket and sponge instead to clean the car or the house windows.
- When cleaning footpaths, the driveway or patio, ignore the hose and get out a broom instead.

## When the summertime heat rises, so does our water use!

To make sure there's plenty of water to go around – both for the rivers and for people – we manage our water supply through water restrictions from 1 January to 31 March every year.

Hand-held hoses can be used at odd-numbered houses on odd-numbered days, and at even-numbered houses on even-numbered days. The use of sprinklers, irrigation systems and unattended hoses is banned.

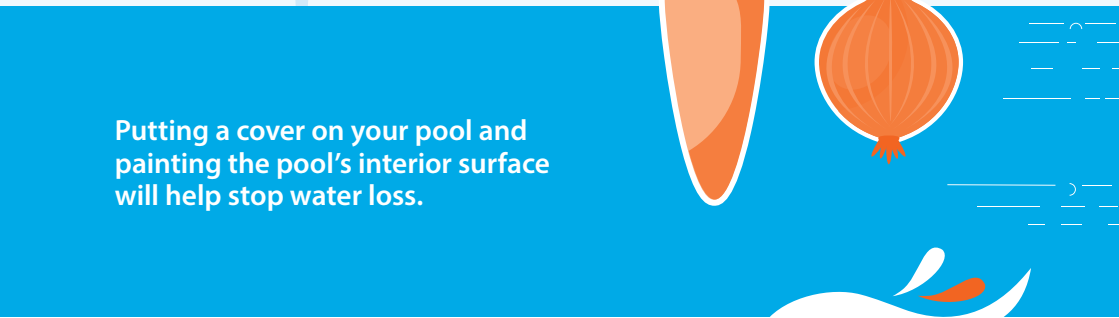
Ordinarily, businesses can continue to use water for normal commercial

use - for instance, a business may use an irrigation system or sprinklers to water grass or flowers if they're for sale.

Sometimes the summer heat comes early and we have to start the water restrictions before 1 January – we'll let you know when that happens!

Want to know more about the different types of water restrictions?

Check out: [newplymouthnz.com/WaterRestrictions](http://newplymouthnz.com/WaterRestrictions)



Putting a cover on your pool and painting the pool's interior surface will help stop water loss.



For more information go to  
[newplymouthnz.com/WaiWarrior](http://newplymouthnz.com/WaiWarrior)

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