

ENJOYING

YOUR NEW HOME AT AURORA

A GUIDE TO MAKING THE MOST OF AURORA AND
YOUR NEW HIGH PERFORMANCE HOME



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ABOUT THIS GUIDE

Congratulations on your new home purchase!

We hope you'll love living at Aurora. As you probably know, we think Aurora is a special place because the development has been planned around natural features and is designed to have a lower environmental impact than traditional developments.

This guide has been developed to help you get the most out of your new home and living at Aurora, all year round.

It contains tips on simple everyday actions to help you –

- use the design features of your new home to be more comfortable in summer and winter
- decorate with style and purpose
- create a low maintenance garden, and get information about the features of your new surrounds - Aurora.

Many of the suggestions here are based on what we've learnt from other people who have moved here, particularly from their questions about how to make the most of the features that make Aurora homes so special. Our aim is to help you with practical information – like how to benefit from your solar hot water system and your home's natural cooling ability and potentially reduce your air conditioning bills.

I hope you enjoy reading this guide and that you will keep it for future reference. We are also keen to hear from you about what you think about the tips and ideas presented here. Please let us know if you have experiences or knowledge that you would like to share that may help others who move here.

For more information, you can always visit the Discovery Pavilion where our VicUrban consultants are on hand to answer your questions, email us at www.vicurban.com or phone 131 852.

Pru Sanderson
Chief Executive Officer
VicUrban

GETTING TO KNOW AURORA

Aurora is growing into an active, lively community. As well as having facilities like its own general store and schools, when complete Aurora will have up to 135 hectares of open space and up to 20 kilometres of walkways and paths on which you can ride your bike to school and walk to cafes or to visit friends.

- 01

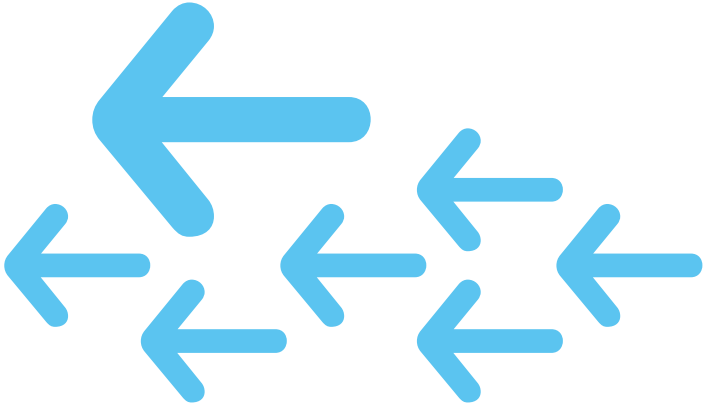
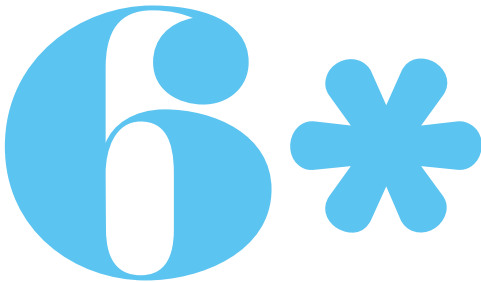
Edgars Creek runs for about 3.5 kilometres from north to south through Aurora. The creek surrounds are being rehabilitated with native vegetation that will provide a haven for local bird life, as well as a peaceful recreation area for the community to enjoy.
- 02

Trails for cycling and walking wind through the heritage sites and provide resting places and spaces for play.
- 03

Creeds Farm was a nineteenth century dairy farm. The farm is now a community precinct where the bluestone buildings, dry stone walls, stockyard and peppercorn trees will be restored and preserved to retain the original character of this delightful local icon.
- 04

The new living and learning centre at Creeds Farm Village is now open. In the future, Creeds Farm Village is proposed to incorporate a general store, primary school and early learning centre. You can learn more about the history of this site and plans for its future at the Discovery Pavilion – and even now the Creeds Farm area is definitely worth exploring!
- 05

The landscape at Aurora is intended to be as attractive and unspoilt as possible. All standard services such as powerlines are underground. This not only looks better, but they require a lot less maintenance too. As an extra benefit there will be a state-of-the-art underground fibre optic cable network that will be installed to your home facilitating free-to-air television, pay television, broadband internet and telephones.



Aurora is helping the survival of an endangered species. The Matted Flax-Lily is endangered at state and national level. It is found in both Victoria and Tasmania, in lowland grassland and grassy woodlands often on roadsides and railway reserves. Approximately 40 Matted Flax-Lily plants have been found in areas of rocky native grassland within Aurora's conservation reserves and are planned to be protected.

The Growling Grass Frog is a national threatened species. This frog lives in a range of aquatic habitats including creeks, drains, wetlands and dams.

At Aurora a total of 16 new wetland ponds along Edgars Creek will be established and two are already completed. They will provide an essential breeding habitat for the frogs' survival.



ENJOYING THE OUTDOOR LIFE AT AURORA

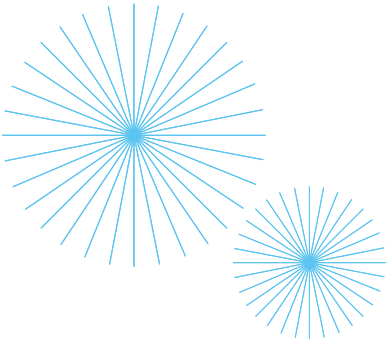
At Aurora a great deal of effort and care has gone into making your outdoor living as accessible and enjoyable as possible.

Aurora has been designed so that its parklands nurture the natural environment and provide a sanctuary for native plants and animals.

MAKING THE MOST OF NATURALLY RECYCLED WATER TO KEEP PARKLANDS AND GARDENS GREENER
 In most Melbourne suburbs, rainwater runs straight into stormwater drains and then into our waterways. This means that any pollutants on roads, driveways and footpaths, such as cigarette butts, oil and chemical fertilisers can end up in our waterways.
 In VicUrban developments like Aurora, rainfall runoff is captured from roads, driveways and roofs and flows into a mixture of 'swale' drains, rain gardens, wetlands and ponds. Swales are special landscape features designed to capture and filter stormwater. Swale drains help to reduce the amount of silt and pollution from entering creeks and waterways. They filter the water naturally, a big improvement to the old fashioned concrete stormwater drains.



One of the many walking paths at Aurora.



BE CAREFUL WHERE YOU PARK!
 Most nature strips at Aurora contain swale drains. It's important that you and your visitors don't park cars on them because the swale drain may be crushed by the weight of the car and no longer operate effectively to clean the stormwater.
 At Aurora, the shared outdoor areas are much more drought resilient and are less likely to suffer as much as traditionally landscaped areas during times of prolonged drought conditions.

AURORA IS ACTIVELY PROTECTING OUR LOCAL NATIVE SPECIES
 As cities and suburbs grow, biodiversity has suffered because the habitat of local animals and plants has been reduced. Losing one species of plant or animal from an area can have a dramatic flow-on effect on all the other species, because many others may have depended on the lost species for food or shelter.
 Your new community is special because it hosts habitats for a wide variety of plants, animals and insects that are indigenous or native to the area.
 Aurora is home to hundreds of species of native plants and animals, and VicUrban has taken great care to protect these within 48 hectares as conservation reserves. Some of the river red gums in the reserves are 400 years old! These areas offer a sanctuary to endangered species like the Golden Sun Moth, the Matted Flax-Lily, and the

*TAKE ACTION

BECOMING INVOLVED IN THE COMMUNITY IS EASY AT AURORA

- 01 Ask us about the latest Aurora community events calendar. Put the dates in your diary & you could enjoy some really interesting events.
- 02 Explore the bike paths and walking paths to enjoy and discover more of what Aurora has to offer.
- 03 Join a social club like a gardening club – or start your own – to meet new friends who live nearby.
- 04 Visit www.bv.com.au if you enjoy bike riding for fun or to get to work.



Growling Grass Frog. As well as providing local habitats, they're part of a corridor of green space around Melbourne which acts as a pathway allowing native species to travel and survive.
 Aurora is home to over 130 species of native plants. Great care is taken to manage these plants and the areas where they grow, to ensure they remain healthy and can sustain the threatened species that live here. Ongoing management includes fencing, weed control and re-planting.
 Your home is a part of the Aurora environment and you can contribute to making it a special place. Planting indigenous native species in your garden not only looks good and is water wise, but it also attracts and supports your local native animals and birds. You can find more information about how to do this in the Discovery Pavilion.

"We've planted a few native trees and plants, but we've also got a good vegetable garden going. The kids really enjoy gardening with us, especially picking things like fresh strawberries or peas for dinner."



*TAKE ACTION

PLANTING LOCAL NATIVE SPECIES

01 If you plant native species that are local to your area they are more likely to do well because they are adapted to your local environment. Your local plant nursery should be able to give you advice about which species are local to Aurora, and a free book is also available from the council.

02 Please join our next planting day at Aurora (check at the Discovery Pavilion). It's a good way to meet your neighbours, share experiences and help the environment as well.

MAKING YOUR GARDEN WATER WISE

01 Setting up a vegie garden can be really simple and it doesn't have to take up much space.

02 Adding mulch to your plants will help to retain moisture in the soil – and often you can get a rebate for mulch! Find out more at www.ourwater.vic.gov.au/saving/home/rebates.

USING ORGANIC FERTILISERS IS BETTER

01 Chemical fertilisers or pesticides can drain into local waterways and may damage local species and their habitats. Organic fertilisers work efficiently, are better for your garden and are a lot safer for our waterways.

02 Alternatively, if you set up a worm farm or compost for your fruit and vegie scraps, you can make your own organic fertiliser.



YOUR NEW HOME AT A GLANCE

Aurora’s master planned community has many benefits for you and your family. The example home below illustrates the design features and specifications that assist you to get more out of life, living at Aurora.

GAS BOOSTED SOLAR HOT WATER

Supplies consistent hot water and makes the most of freely available energy from the sun.

6-STAR ENERGY DESIGN

All homes at Aurora have been designed to achieve a minimum 6-star energy rating to help reduce energy use and impact on the environment. Your home’s 6-star design rating relates to how well it copes with the heat in summer and with the cold in winter – its ‘thermal performance’. Your house designer may have used some or all of these features to achieve this performance level.

SUN SHADING

These protect your windows from the harsh summer sun and allow the low winter sun to penetrate and heat your home. This can significantly reduce your heating and cooling needs.

POSITIONING YOUR HOME

Your home conforms with height and positioning controls to make the most of natural sunlight and help ensure your home is not overshadowed by your neighbours so you enjoy maximum privacy – inside and out.

SAVING ENERGY AND WATER

Minimum 4 to 5 star heating and cooling appliances and flow restrictors on shower heads, toilets and taps, along with efficient lighting, help you save on your energy and water bills.

SEAMLESS INDOOR & OUTDOOR LIVING

Most living areas are orientated north to make the most of the sun and create a convenient link between your indoor and outdoor living spaces. This creates more room for entertaining. The outside living area is either left uncovered or partially uncovered to avoid blocking the sun. This results in lighter brighter living areas – inside and out.

WATER SAVING SOLUTIONS

Aurora is the first residential development in Melbourne’s northern suburbs to have recycled water. Your connection to Class A recycled water means you are not relying on Melbourne’s drinking water to flush toilets and water gardens.

FIBRE OPTIC CONNECTION

The fibre optic connection will allow you to activate and receive the latest technology for all your home’s communication and entertainment needs including telephone, internet and subscription TV – for now and into the future.

WATER SENSITIVE URBAN DESIGN

At Aurora rainwater runoff is captured from roads, driveways and roofs and flows into rain gardens, swale drains, wetlands and bio retention ponds. The water is filtered naturally, protecting the health of our waterways.

KEEPING YOUR HOME COOLER THROUGHOUT SUMMER

Your home’s design features work together to keep your home naturally cool. Understanding how these features work – and how simple they are – can help you to really make the most of your new home.

The features discussed here are often described as ‘passive’ because your home stays cool without you switching on the air conditioning. But, as you’ll see, some of these cooling features will work even better with your active involvement!

? DID YOU KNOW

SAVE 40% AND STAY COOLER BY DESIGN

Compared to a typical Melbourne home, a well-insulated energy efficient home like yours can be up to 10°C cooler in summer without turning on the air conditioning – saving up to 40% on your cooling costs.

NATURAL VENTILATION – ALLOWING COOL AIR INSIDE AT NIGHT

We all know that a cool breeze on a summer’s night can be the difference between getting a good night’s sleep and tossing and turning for hours because it’s too hot. In most 6-star designed homes the windows and doors are carefully located to encourage natural ventilation, meaning that when you open them up at night cool summer breezes flow into your home.

On a hot day every element in your home gradually absorbs heat – walls, roof, floors, outdoor surfaces all slowly heat up and store that heat until it cools down outside and they release it again. By opening windows at night to help the cooling-down process you can prevent that stored heat building up over a series of hot days.

Similarly, closing blinds and curtains early in the day – especially in rooms that get the morning sun – you can stop a lot of the heat coming into your home.

Ceiling fans circulate the air and help to keep rooms feeling cool. Some fans have a ‘summer’ and ‘winter’ setting which can help to make a difference. Hot air rises, naturally, so summer fans draw hot air upwards as well as keeping it moving to create a cooling effect. Fans are a good alternative to switching on the air conditioning because they cost much less to run for a comparable period of time.



AN ENERGY EFFICIENT COOLING SYSTEM TOO

With only a little care, on most days your home will stay naturally cool without air conditioning. And, although your air conditioner has been manufactured to the highest energy efficiency standards it’s just as important that you operate it efficiently too.



Close blinds on hot days to keep your house cooler.



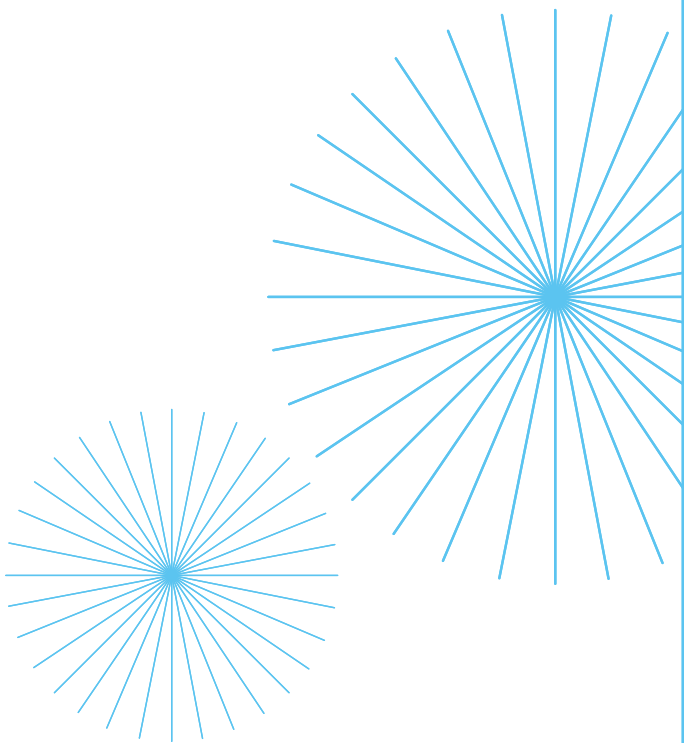
Use ceiling fans to circulate the air.

You can run your cooling system efficiently by setting the thermostat temperature to no less than 26°C in summer. This will save you money on your electricity bill and will make the transition to the outdoors more comfortable. For every degree less than 26°C your cooling bill may increase 10%.

“We chose heavy drapes and pelmets. We really notice the difference it makes walking into a cool home after a hot day because we make sure the curtains are closed while we’re at work – simple really”



Cross flow ventilation.



*TAKE ACTION

MAKING THE MOST OF YOUR HOME'S NATURAL ABILITY TO STAY COOL

You can play a really important role in maximizing the benefits of your 6-star designed home – these simple actions will help you to make the most of the features of your new home:

- 01 Closing the doors and windows, plus drawing the curtains and closing the blinds early on a hot summer's day will help to block out the heat.
- 02 Opening the windows later in the day when it cools down outside will help to allow any built-up heat to escape. Cross flow ventilation between windows allows cooling breezes to flow through your home at night.
- 03 If you have a cooling system there are some clever ways you can maximise the cooled air, making it cheaper to run:
 - + If you have ceiling fans, after turning them on and waiting for the air to circulate you may find that you don't need to switch on the air conditioner at all. Fans are often much quieter too.
 - + Setting the thermostat to 26°C is the most efficient temperature for a Melbourne summer day. Every degree cooler may add 10% to your cooling bill!
 - + Closing the doors between your living areas and other parts of the house can help by cooling only the areas you need. In the same way, zoning your cooling system or closing off some of the vents can help you to cool only the occupied rooms.
 - + Plan ahead and plant a deciduous vine on your pergola for extra summer shading. Deciduous means it will lose its leaves in autumn, so it won't block out the sun you want in winter.

KEEPING YOUR HOME WARMER IN WINTER

Your new home is also designed to keep you snug in winter, with features that help to capture the natural warmth and light of the winter sun and make the most of any additional heating.

Many of the design features that keep your home cooler in summer also keep your home warmer in winter.

USING YOUR BLINDS AND CURTAINS CAN MAKE ALL THE DIFFERENCE

Most of your home's heat is lost through windows – heat travels much faster through glass than it does through walls or ceilings. That's why curtains and blinds are so important to make them work like an extra blanket during cool days and nights, rubber back or thick curtains also help to keep the cool from creeping in. There are so many different kinds of window coverings to choose from, and they can really add character and a sense of style to your home. But while much of what you see and read about window coverings focuses on how they look, the real issue is using them in the right way – depending on the season. In winter this means opening them up on sunny winter mornings to take full advantage of the sun's warmth.

HIGHLY EFFICIENT HEATING SAVES ON YOUR POWER BILLS – EVEN MORE SO IF YOU USE IT WISELY

Aurora homes have heating systems which are 4 or 5-star energy efficient which means they use around 55% less energy than other heating systems. This helps to make your home more comfortable as well as more environmentally friendly.

However, it is also very important that you use the heating system effectively. If you keep the heating thermostat to between 18°C and 20°C in winter this will help you stay warm and comfortable. The energy smart design features will contribute to lower heating bills than those for other homes that don't have energy smart design features.



Set your temperature between 18°C and 20°C

*TAKE ACTION

On a cold winter's day you can do some simple things that will enhance the warming features of your home, and save on your energy bills.

- 01 Opening curtains and blinds in your living room in the morning means you can take full advantage of the sun's heat and light.
- 02 Closing curtains and blinds when the sun goes down will help to retain the heat inside your home.
- 03 Closing doors to unoccupied rooms will keep the heat in your living areas.
- 04 If you need to switch on the heating system, setting the thermostat to between 18 to 20 degrees will keep you comfortable and your system will operate at an efficient level. Every degree above this range can add 10% to your heating bill.
- 05 Zoning your heating by closing off heating vents in unoccupied rooms or programming your heater means you're paying to heat only the occupied rooms.
- 06 If you are feeling chilly in winter throw on a jumper before you turn on the heating. In the same way, when the heating is turned on, if it's too hot to wear a jumper inside then keeping warm may be costing you more than it needs to.
- 07 Planning ahead for winter by trimming the plants in front of your north and east facing windows will help to let in as much natural light and warmth as possible.

FACTS & STATS

20°C

The maximum number to set your thermostat in winter to minimise your bills

10%

The percentage added to your heating costs for every degree above 20°C

17,800

The amount of Black Balloons released per year if you set your heating at 22°C instead of 20°C

"I've always had the heating on 24/7 but now we've worked out how to use the house to its full advantage it's not necessary and it's really made a difference to our bills."

LIGHTING YOUR HOME WITH STYLE

Light can transform a room. Good lighting can be the difference between a friendly, attractive home that's a pleasure to be in and a bland, unwelcoming space.

Your lighting choices are one of the most important ways that you can add character and your own sense of style to your home. Whether you prefer a more contemporary look or more traditional styling for your light fittings there are energy efficient globes available in many shapes and sizes.



CFLS

The new model compact fluorescent lamps, also known as CFLs are a far cry from the first generation 'fluoros' – the long tubes we associate with commercial or industrial buildings. As well as being much more compact and much better looking, they now produce a much friendlier, warmer quality of light. If you prefer a cool white light these are available too, but for most homes, and particularly for living areas, 'warm white' is the way to go.

While CFLs may cost more to purchase up front they are much cheaper to run than incandescent lights so they can save you money in the long term. They can last longer than incandescents (standard globes) and use less energy, so as well as being cheaper to run they can reduce your impact on the environment.

LEDs

Light emitting diodes (LEDs) are another type of energy efficient light bulb. Until very recently these have been a more expensive option but they're coming down in price and becoming more widely available. When it comes to making lighting choices, now and in the future, look around for more information about LEDs because these are tipped to be the lighting of the future.



Solar outdoor lighting

*TAKE ACTION

- ⊕ You can save on your power bills by simply turning off the lights every time you leave a room – even for just a short period.
- ⊕ It is a myth that more energy is consumed turning lights on and off than just leaving the light on. If you leave an unoccupied room turn the lights off.
- ⊕ Taking a walk around the outside of the house one night can be very revealing. By checking on your outdoor lighting you may discover some unnecessary lights.
- ⊕ Installing movement sensors, timers or daylight sensors on your outdoor light fittings can make a big difference to your lighting bill. Movement sensors are really convenient for coming home at night and they can be good for security too.
- ⊕ Using solar lighting outdoors means you can light up your garden at night for very little cost and it's also environmentally friendly.



Many types of energy efficient globes available. Left to right: Spiral compact fluorescent lamp (CFL), compact fluorescent down light, LED, Tubular compact fluorescent lamp (CFL).

FACTS & STATS

75%

CFLs use 75% less energy than incandescents

8

CFLs can last up to 8 times longer than incandescents

13%

The percentage of your energy bill that lighting is responsible for in a typical home

"We never really thought much about lighting in our old place – it was sort of just 'there'. But after we moved here to Aurora we bought some new energy efficient low wattage globes and lamps in a warm white colour and they make the room feel cosy. And now we often don't switch on all the overhead lights in the living room."

GETTING THE MOST FROM YOUR SOLAR HOT WATER SYSTEM

When it comes to heating water, using a freely available non-polluting energy source, such as sunlight, really makes good sense for your family and the planet.

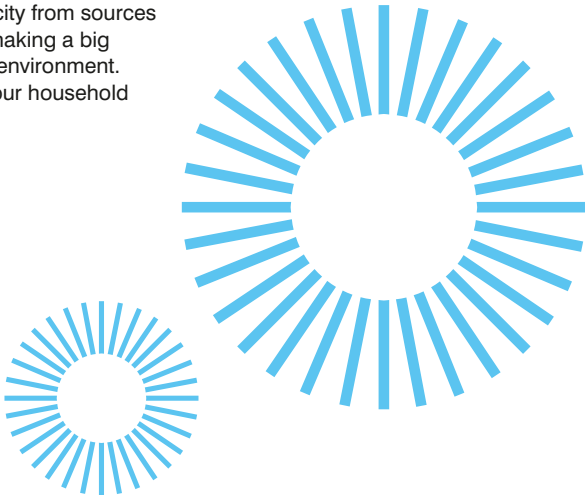
Choosing a solar hot water system for your home is a natural decision. Solar hot water is streets ahead of the old-fashioned storage hot water systems because it heats your water using energy from the sun that is non-polluting and absolutely free.

As a back-up system your gas-powered booster is also extremely efficient. It kicks in automatically when necessary but there are only a few days a year when sunlight levels are not enough to heat your water. Even winter sunlight is more than sufficient on most days.

And, the really good news is that by using solar power to heat your water – rather than using electricity from sources that create pollution – your household is making a big contribution to reducing its impact on the environment. When you think how many hot showers your household takes in a year, this really adds up.



Solar panels fitted discreetly onto the roof.



*TAKE ACTION

- 01 Where possible, if you can use hot water in the middle of the day instead of at other times, you will be using your system at its most efficient level.
- 02 Of course, it also makes good sense to work out how you can use less hot water overall. For example, you can save hot water by:
 - + Taking shorter showers. Many families waste a lot of water because they have long showers. You can teach your kids to save water by buying a shower timer and encouraging them to use it.
 - + Washing your clothes in cold water – in most cases the results are just as good.
- 03 Don't forget to wash down your rooftop solar collector panels. It's good to remove any build-up of dust over time so your collectors are working at their maximum efficiency. A good time to do this is when you're doing other routine maintenance jobs like cleaning out gutters or trimming vines, for example. If you prefer not to get up on the roof yourself there are yard maintenance companies who can do this for you.

FACTS & STATS

25%

The percentage of your energy bill that hot water is responsible for in a typical home

90%

The percentage that a solar hot water system can save on water heating costs

Few

The number of days a year when sunlight levels are not sufficient to heat your water

"We came from an old house in Preston – a bit smaller than our new one here – but our electricity bill is about three quarters of what we used to pay."

ALL ABOUT RECYCLED WATER

Your new home is water efficient by design. The amount of water you use can be much less than the average household because of smart features like recycled water and efficient showerheads, taps and toilets.

We all know that water is a precious and a limited resource in Victoria. VicUrban’s Aurora is the first residential development in Melbourne’s northern suburbs to have recycled water instead of mains water available for toilet flushing and garden use. Using recycled water can reduce the use of drinking water by around 40%. It also means your home can have healthy plants and lawns during droughts and during water restriction periods.

WHERE DOES RECYCLED WATER COME FROM?
Wastewater from your home is piped to a water treatment facility where it is treated to a standard that is appropriate for domestic use. This is referred to as ‘Class A’ recycled water. The treated water is returned to your home through what’s known as the ‘third pipe’ – coloured purple.



Disclaimer: At time of printing, recycled water is not subject to water restrictions but this could change in the future.

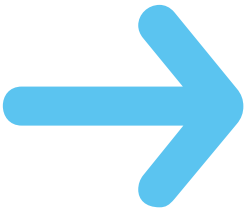


WHAT CAN RECYCLED WATER BE USED FOR?
Recycled water is ideal for toilet flushing and outdoor uses such as washing cars, watering lawns, gardens, vegetable patches, or filling ornamental ponds as well as irrigating the parks and public open spaces around Aurora.

WHAT CAN’T IT BE USED FOR?
Although recycled water has been treated to strict Class A standards, it should not be used for drinking, cooking, kitchen purposes or your pets drinking water.

Further things to avoid include; bathing, showering, filling swimming pools or spas, children’s toys such as slip ‘n’ slide or other water toys usage.

The taps and fittings for recycled water are coloured purple for easy identification. Recycled water is charged at the lowest drinking water tariff.



“I have a soft spot for my car – and it’s great that I can wash it without feeling like I’m wasting drinking water – plus I can water the lawn at the same time.”



SMART WATER SAVERS

Your low-flow shower head can save up to 25,000 litres of water per household per year compared to an old-fashioned shower head. And, because you're using less hot water and you have a solar hot water system you're also using far less energy than other households, so as well as paying less you're way ahead in terms of reducing your impact on the environment.

But it's not just the showering that makes the difference. Your sink and basin taps have flow restrictors that automatically reduce your water use without compromising the water pressure.

Your dual-flush toilet uses only 4.5 litres (for a full flush) or 3 litres (for a half flush) compared to up to 11 litres in older systems. There is an even bigger water saving at Aurora too, because your toilet flushing uses recycled water.



? DID YOU KNOW

Compared to the Melbourne average old-style toilet your 4-star water efficient toilet saves an average of 19,000 litres of water every year. Using a new 3 star rated washing machine can save 19,400 litres of water per household per year compared to the Melbourne average.

Living at Aurora and using recycled water means you can reduce your consumption of drinking water by one third compared to an average Melbourne household.

	AVERAGE MELBOURNE HOME
SHOWER	9.5 litres/minute
TOILET	7.5 litres/flush

	YOUR NEW HOME AT AURORA
SHOWER	8–9 litres/min (3-star shower fitting)
TOILET	Less than 4 litres/flush (4- star toilet)

* TAKE ACTION

Even though Aurora homes are way ahead because you're using recycled water in your toilet and garden, it's still really important that we all use as little drinking water as possible because this resource is under so much pressure in Victoria/Australia.

Here are some ideas to save even more water. Especially in times of drought, or when there are stricter than normal water restrictions in place, you and your family can make a big difference and help to preserve our scarce resources.

- 01 Watering your garden early in the morning or late in the evening saves water because there's less evaporation.
- 02 Using a bucket and sponge or a hose with a trigger nozzle saves a lot of water when you're washing your car, plus, if you wash your car on the grass you'll be watering the lawn at the same time. If you buy an enviro-friendly cleaning product you will help to make our waterways healthier for the plants and animals that depend on them.
- 03 Visit www.yvw.com.au for information on recycled water use and your water account. Visit www.savewater.com.au for more ideas on saving water.

TAKING CARE WITH WASHING CARS

- 01 Although recycled water is available for washing cars, it is still a good idea to conserve this resource as much as possible.
- + You can save a lot of water by using a bucket and sponge or a hose with a trigger nozzle.
- + Please wash your car on the lawn but, do not park on the swale drain. Aurora's swale drains allow excess water to nourish the grass rather than going to waste.
- + Harsh chemicals can be harmful to the environment and your garden. It is better for our waterways if you wash your car with biodegradable detergents.

USING WATER WHERE IT COUNTS

- 01 Concrete does not need watering – it doesn't grow! Use a broom, brush or rake to sweep outdoor paving.

FACTS & STATS

19,000

The average amount of water in litres a 4-star water efficient toilet saves every year.

25,000

The amount of water in litres a low-flow showerhead can save each year compared to old fashioned showerheads

33%

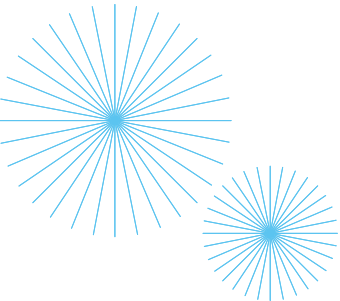
The percentage of drinking water saved through using recycled water

SMARTER WAYS WITH APPLIANCES

When purchasing new appliances it makes sense to put reducing energy and water consumption at the top of your list of purchasing priorities, because you will reap ongoing savings for many years to come.

This is an opportunity to better protect your household against potentially higher prices for water and energy. What's more, the way you use that appliance every day can have a dramatic impact on your bills. Everyday actions can make all the difference.

You have the power. Save energy. Visit saveenergy.vic.gov.au for tips and advice on saving energy, get the facts and shop smart information.



STANDBY IS AN ENERGY ZAPPER

'Standby' power is the energy an appliance uses when it is not actually on. Standby power is now responsible for around 11% of household energy use. Take a walk through your house at night and look at all the flashing lights and LED displays from your appliances – that's standby power. It's the electrical equivalent of a dripping tap so it's a good idea to work out how you can turn off some of these unnecessary energy users.

100% GREENPOWER MEANS YOU'RE USING CLEAN ELECTRICITY

Switching to 100% Government accredited GreenPower is very simple and many households have already done so. Your electricity retailer can organise this for you, or you can shop around online and compare the different GreenPower products and prices. If you choose to use GreenPower the electricity you consume will come from sources of renewable energy such as the sun, wind, water or waste with almost no greenhouse gas emissions. To find out how easy it is to switch to GreenPower, and how little it can cost, visit www.greenpower.gov.au.

INVOLVE THE WHOLE FAMILY!

Why not get your kids on board and encourage them to save energy, such as turning off lights in unoccupied rooms or switching off appliances at the wall! Give them a dollar value for energy saving - translating energy savings into pocket money. Use your current electricity bill as a baseline and then tell them you'll pay them the difference for any reduction in the bill next month. You might be surprised how much pocket money they earn!

SAVING ENERGY AROUND THE HOUSE

Do you really need that second fridge? By turning it off when not in use you can save up to \$87 a year – even more if you get rid of it altogether.

If you switch off TVs, stereos, computers and other electrical equipment at the power point that's the simplest and easiest way to reduce energy use and save money. If the power point is not accessible, try using a power board or one of the new products on the market designed specifically for this purpose.

Walk around your house and observe all the appliances that use electricity. How many of them need to be on all the time?

LOOK FOR THE STARS WHEN YOU'RE BUYING NEW APPLIANCES

When you're choosing new appliances look for the energy and water rating labels – the more stars the better. This means the appliance will be cheaper to run as well as kinder to the environment.

- Clothes washers and dryers, dishwashers, fridges, freezers and even televisions have energy rating labels and this is one of the best ways to compare different models.
- Price is an important factor but don't forget you need to consider ongoing running costs as well.
- To check out the rating of different appliances and find out how these ratings are applied visit www.energyrating.gov.au and/or www.waterrating.gov.au.

Fridges have been getting bigger, so choosing the right size fridge can be as important as choosing an energy efficient one. A smaller fridge means you are not paying for and using energy you don't need. Fridges tend to fill up so sometimes going smaller can help with reducing food waste too.

Televisions have been getting bigger. Obviously smaller screens use less energy than larger screens. Generally LED and LCD televisions are more energy efficient than plasma ones – but check the wattage!

WHAT CAN'T IT BE USED FOR?

Although recycled water has been treated to strict Class A standards, it should not be used for drinking, cooking, kitchen purposes or your pets drinking water.

Further things to avoid include; bathing, showering, filling swimming pools or spas, children's toys such as slip 'n' slide or other water toys usage.

The taps and fittings for recycled water are coloured purple for easy identification. Recycled water is charged at the lowest drinking water tariff.

SHOPPING FOR EASY SAVINGS

The energy and water rating stickers on new appliances help you save. The more stars on the label the more efficient the appliance is. The average energy and water consumption is also shown – the lower the figure the better for your pocket and the planet.

The label on appliances, like washing machines and dishwashers also tells you how much water the appliance uses (e.g. per minute or per load), so you can compare the different models.



"I moved here with my existing appliances because I couldn't afford new ones at the time. I'm now replacing some of them, and it's been good not being in a hurry about this. The energyrating.gov.au website has been really useful."

FACTS & STATS

5°C

The amount the temperature drops when you open the oven door

The more efficient the product is the more stars it will have

11%

The percentage of total household energy use that standby power is responsible for



REDUCING WASTE AND INCREASING RECYCLING

Living in a well-serviced area like Aurora makes it really easy to deal with waste and recycling. By recycling everything you can through the kerbside recycling service you are actively helping to save energy and water and reduce landfill.

RECYCLING IS IMPORTANT

Finding out what's collected and taking care with the sorting is important. If the wrong materials end up in the wrong bins a whole load can be written off as 'contaminated' so it's really a whole-of-community effort to make sure the system works properly and everyone can share the benefits.

Of course, when you're buying something upfront it makes sense to choose goods that are made from recycled materials when you can. Every purchase helps to grow the demand for recycled-content materials and so helps manufacturers trying to reduce their environmental impact.

WHAT CAN YOU RECYCLE?

Items that you can put in your recycling bin include:

- + paper and cardboard (but nothing contaminated with food)
- + glass bottles and jars – with the lids removed
- + plastic bottles*
- + other plastics*
- + aluminium cans and foil
- + steel cans
- + milk and juice cartons.

*Recyclable plastic items have a code number marked on their base. City Of Whittlesea currently accepts items coded 1, 2 and 3.

FINDING OUT MORE

Visit www.recyclingnearyou.com.au to find out the nearest recycling depot for electronic items.

Visit www.whittlesea.vic.gov.au for details on what can be recycled in the City of Whittlesea, plus other helpful council services.

GARDEN WASTE

The City of Whittlesea also offers a kerbside service for Aurora garden waste. To find out about collection days and more information about what to recycle and how to sort your material please contact the City of Whittlesea on 9217 2170 (24 hours) or visit their website at www.whittlesea.vic.gov.au.



*TAKE ACTION

Here are some ideas for reducing the volume of waste your household generates. You're probably already doing many of these things, but you might find one or two extra ideas in this list.

- 01 Using a kitchen bin with compartments for waste and recycling, makes it very easy to separate waste from recyclables.
- 02 Using a compost bin or worm farm can turn kitchen waste into useful garden fertiliser and mulch.
- 03 It's also possible to recycle other household items such as chemicals, oil, paint, batteries, gas cylinders, fluorescent tubes and light globes. To find drop-off points and services visit www.resourcesmart.vic.gov.au or phone 1800 353 233.



"We've got it all sorted – by starting in the kitchen. Our bin has compartments that make it really simple to do the right thing now."

FACTS & STATS

1.14

The amount of waste in tonnes the average Australian household produces each year

70%

The percentage of household waste that ends up in landfill

WHERE TO FIND OUT MORE

For more information about making the most of your new home's energy saving design please come and talk to one of our VicUrban consultants and share your stories with us. You can contact one of our consultants at the Discovery Pavilion, or call us on 131 852.

- You'll find a wealth of information online too. Here are some suggestions:
- To find out more about the thinking behind Aurora: www.vicurban.com/aurora
- For more on technical aspects of your home's design and how each specific feature works: www.yourhome.gov.au
- A great site for general information on sustainability: www.sustainability.vic.gov.au
- How to compare the different GreenPower products that are available and rate them accordingly www.greenelectricitywatch.org.au
- Information about the different carbon offsets and which may suit you best: www.carbonoffsetwatch.org.au

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AURORA CHECKLIST

Go through the checklist below and check that your home is saving as much energy and water as it can.

KEEPING YOUR HOME COOLER IN SUMMER

- ☐ Do we stay cool on hot days without using our air conditioner – by closing our curtains and blinds early in the day?
- ☐ Do we enjoy cool breezes flowing through the house in the evenings – by opening up windows at opposite sides of the house?
- ☐ Do we switch on the ceiling fans before turning on the air conditioner?
- ☐ If we do have the air conditioner switched on, do we save on our cooling bills by keeping the temperature set to 26° in summer?
- ☐ Do we close the doors between rooms?
- ☐ Is our air conditioning system zoned? Do we close off the vents in some rooms?

KEEPING YOUR HOME WARMER IN WINTER

- ☐ Can we make the most of winter sunlight by opening curtains and blinds on the sunny side of the house early in the day?
- ☐ Do we keep warm air inside by closing curtains and blinds when the sun has gone down?
- ☐ Do we keep even warmer by closing the doors to unoccupied rooms? Or closing the vents in these rooms?
- ☐ If we have the heating system switched on, do we set the thermostat to between 18 and 20°?

GETTING TO KNOW YOUR AURORA COMMUNITY

- ☐ Have we contacted VicUrban to find out about upcoming events at Aurora?
- ☐ Have we explored the bike paths and walking paths?

LIGHTING YOUR HOME WITH STYLE

- ☐ Do we turn off the lights when we don't need them – inside and outside?
- ☐ Have we replaced all our old-fashioned light bulbs with the new energy efficient CFL or LED light bulbs?
- ☐ Have we installed movement sensors, timers or daylight sensors on our outdoor light fittings?

GETTING THE MOST FROM SOLAR HOT WATER SYSTEMS

- ☐ Are we able to use our hot water system in the middle of the day when it is typically operating most efficiently?
- ☐ Are we using less hot water overall by taking shorter showers?
- ☐ Are we using less hot water overall by washing clothes in cold water?

SAVING WATER IN YOUR HOME

- ☐ Are we taking shorter showers – beating the 4-minute shower timer?
- ☐ Are we placing our food scraps into a compost bin instead of rinsing them?
- ☐ Are we running the dishwasher and washing machine with full loads only?
- ☐ Are we watering the garden early or late in the day?

SMARTER WAYS WITH APPLIANCES

- ☐ Have we looked into switching to GreenPower?
- ☐ Are we using the power-saving settings on our appliances?
- ☐ Are we turning equipment off at the power point, not just the 'off' button?
- ☐ Are we turning off lights when we leave a room?
- ☐ Are the seals in our fridge working efficiently to keep cool air inside?
- ☐ Do we turn off the spare fridge when we don't need it?
- ☐ Do we dry clothes in the sunlight instead of in the dryer?
- ☐ Do we wash clothes in cold water, and only use the washing machine when we have a full load?
- ☐ When buying a new appliance, have we used the star rating labels to compare the different models?
- ☐ When buying a new appliance, have we considered ongoing running costs as well as purchase price?
- ☐ If we're looking for a new fridge, can we choose a smaller model?
- ☐ Can we save energy by buying a smaller TV screen? (that doesn't dominate the room!)

REDUCING WASTE AND INCREASING RECYCLING

- ☐ Are we sorting our waste correctly, and making it as easy as possible for everyone to sort their waste?
- ☐ Are we creating our own organic fertiliser and mulch by composting our food scraps, or setting up a worm farm?

ENJOYING OUTDOOR LIVING AT AURORA

- ☐ Do we use a bucket and sponge or a trigger-nozzle hose when we wash our car?
- ☐ Do we wash our car on the grass – but not on the swale drains?
- ☐ Do we use biodegradable detergents when we wash our car?
- ☐ Do we save water by using a broom or rake instead of a hose to clean our paved areas?
- ☐ Do we water the garden only in the early mornings or later in the day?
- ☐ Do we use mulch in our garden?
- ☐ Do we use a trigger nozzle on the hose when watering the garden?
- ☐ Are we helping the environment by using organic fertilisers?
- ☐ Do we have native plants that use less water and help support our local birdlife?

