

**NEW  
REVIEWS**

- Pinnacle SoundBridge Radio
- Mirage Omnisat Home Theatre Speakers
- Onkyo Home Theatre Receiver
- RTI Controls Universal Controller
- Oricom Digital Cordless Phones
- T+A CD Player & Amp

**WORK THIS WAY...**  
Get smart in your home office

**Green products  
for your home**



**SPIES, WORMS AND TROJANS!**  
How to protect your PC

**LIGHTING SPECIAL – GET ENERGY-EFFICIENT!**



# Australian Smart Home Ideas Winter 2007

Green products p. 35

Global warming and the severity of Australia's drought have become part of the fabric of our lives. Australian designers have responded by launching a huge wave of energy-efficient and green products.



timer which provides the user with a 4-minute time slot in the shower!

The use of ShowerWatch is completely voluntary — it's not connected to the taps so you have to set it when you get in and it's still up to you to get out after 4 minutes are up. The main benefit of the product is it's been designed to blend in with your shower's décor and it will create an awareness of time in the shower.

In the manufacture of ShowerWatch there have been no adhesives, metal screws or gaskets used, and lead-free solder is used. It can be easily disassembled with a major twist so you can replace its batteries. All the components of ShowerWatch can be recycled and it retails for around \$39.

But as you may feel like continuing your shower, you activate the Auto-Mode and you can extend your shower, using the sanitised water from the Quench reservoir located in the base of your shower.

The Quench Shower is designed as a complete shower cubicle and RRP starts at around \$2995.

**10. RAINBANK**

**DAVEY WATER PRODUCTS**

[WWW.RAINBANK.COM.AU](http://WWW.RAINBANK.COM.AU)

RainBank is what's known as a rainwater harvesting system from Davey Water Products. It will send your rainwater for use in your toilets, garden and laundry, and will only use mains water as a backup if necessary.

**11. BORAL PLESTER BORAL**

[WWW.BORAL.COM.AU](http://WWW.BORAL.COM.AU)

Boral's latest release of 'Green Building' category sustainable and healthy

Made from gypsum mineral found widely recycled paper, the light embodied energy per s when compared to s with heavyweight cons

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Added to all of this, the ellipta Flat Screen Arm and laptop tray will give you power savings of up to 50 percent — because laptops use far less energy.

In 2006, Sustainability Victoria chose this product to be fitted to each and every desk in its new Lonsdale Street offices, delivering the 50 percent saving in energy use.

As well, Sustainability Victoria required compliance with the IEQ-4 Daylight Glare Control requirements of the Green Star Office Interiors V1.1 Technical Manual. This specifies that an arm must have at least 500mm of both horizontal and vertical displacement. You'll find the RRP is around the \$199 mark.

**6. CAROMA PROFILE TOILET SUITE WITH INTEGRATED HAND BASIN**

[WWW.CAROMA.COM.AU](http://WWW.CAROMA.COM.AU)

This integrated toilet and hand basin is something you'll be racing to buy if you're light on space and you want to help save water. Rated 5 Star WELS efficient and saving close to 30,000 litres of water in the average household per year, it has our vote.

Caroma thought up this nifty design where the hand basin is located as part of the toilet, on top of the cistern. The first of its kind, this toilet suite basically cuts out the need to wash your hands in the usual bathroom hand basin.

You simply press the full or half-flush buttons (3L & 4.5L) integrated into the design near the tap in the basin and this activates the toilet to flush. Then, the toilet flows water into the cistern tank ready for the

next flush, but also flows water flows into the hand basin so you can wash your hands. Once washed, this used water then flows into the cistern for the next flush as well.

As we've said, effectively you've saved the water normally used to wash your hands. Caroma says the result is, along with the usual water savings made from the Caroma Smartflush technology, a further 10 percent saving in total bathroom water usage.

Ideal for small bathroom spaces, we can see this design going a long way. Available around mid-year, its price is around \$500.

**7. AQUASMART**

**FISHER & PAYKEL**

[WWW.FP.COM.AU/AQUASMART](http://WWW.FP.COM.AU/AQUASMART)

Fisher & Paykel's AquaSmart is a washing machine which uses a wash action requiring less water, less energy — and washing an average load in less than an hour.

So far this is the only top loading washer to achieve a 4 Star WELS rating. The AquaSmart is also a bit easier on your back — no more bending to load and unload. Yet it still has many of the benefits of front loaders.

The machine's low profile agitator gently rolls the clothes over each other to remove soiling. Soapy water is forced through the clothing to remove bacteria and dirt, while the rolling action promotes friction to clean and remove stains.

If you have a load where you think more water will be needed, you can switch to 'Conventional Immersion Wash Mode' but for most loads, the 'High Efficiency Mode' will do. RRP of the AquaSmart is \$1199.



**8. SHOWERWATCH**

**HALF A TEASPOON**

[WWW.HALFATEASPOON.COM](http://WWW.HALFATEASPOON.COM)

If you were to visualise the entire planet's water as one litre, the available freshwater would only be half a teaspoon. This is part of an awareness program Gretha Oost is promoting through her company, Half a Teaspoon.

Born in The Netherlands, Oost arrived in Australia in 2004 and was struck by Australia's water shortages. She developed the Half a Teaspoon program to address the issue, on the premise if we can visualise the world's available water, we can then use it more consciously.

ShowerWatch is the first product from Half a Teaspoon and it's a pre-programmed waterproof



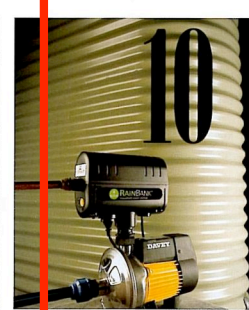
**9. QUENCH SOLUTIONS**

**QUENCH SHOWER**

[WWW.QUENCHSHOWERS.COM](http://WWW.QUENCHSHOWERS.COM)

So you may not be the type of person who can stick to 4-minute showers... but there is still something you can do. Quench Solutions has released this home shower system which can reduce your daily water consumption by as much as 82 percent (a huge 200,000 litres per year in a busy household).

Developed in Australia, the Quench Shower allows you to shower normally. What you do is get in the shower, soap up, and wash your body and rinse off as you would normally. This will usually take around 2 minutes and use around 20 litres of water, because a Quench showerhead flows at around 9 litres per minute.



RainBank will automatically switch between rainwater and mains water supply, so you'll still have essential water even when there's no rain or there are electrical interruptions. It can be mounted on a nearby wall, up to nine metres from your tank.

RainBank can provide water savings benefits of up to 40 percent and energy savings of 60 percent because there is no double handling of mains water. The daily power consumption for a pump and the RainBank system supplying toilet cisterns in a three-person home, is equivalent to the operation of a reverse cycle 2400 watt air conditioner for three minutes a day.

RRP is \$950 for pump and RainBank.

