

[Products]

Save water

Running water through the hot water tap until it warms up can waste a huge amount of water each year. Wouldn't it be great to have taps that automatically diverted the cold water to another use and then switched back when the water became warm enough to use?

Well, the EcoVerta range of plumbing devices, from Advanced Eco Technologies, do exactly that. They can be retrofitted to almost any tap setup, and there are versions for use with single taps, or multiple tap clusters as found in bathrooms.

The EcoVerta monitors the temperature of the water and diverts the cold water to an alternative use, such as to a rainwater tank, garden watering system or whatever you want really. Once the water exceeds a certain temperature, the device stops diverting the water. All you have to do is wait for the warm water, just like you would normally do anyway!

The unit is very compact and is ideally installed under a sink in a kitchen or bathroom. It operates in any position or orientation, is weatherproof and so can be mounted externally if required.

Available from Advanced Eco Technologies Pty Ltd, Box 470, Mount Eliza VIC 3930, ph:(03) 5976 4811, fax:(03) 5976 4822, email: info@advecotech.com.au, www.advecotech.com.au



Simple solar heating

Winter will soon be upon us, so why not use some of the stray winter sun to provide some heating for your home?

The SolarVenti is a solar-powered ventilation system designed to circulate warm, dry fresh air through a home to reduce moisture buildup and maintain a comfortable living environment.

It comes in four sizes ranging from 720 x 540mm to 3000 x 1020mm, is 100mm in depth, and the largest unit weighs only 29.5kg. It uses a solar-powered fan and has no external power or plumbing connections and so can be easily installed by any modestly competent handy person. The SolarVenti panels can be mounted on a north-facing roof just like hot water or photovoltaic solar panels, or on an outside wall. Insulated flexible ducting conveys the heated air into the house where it is dispersed through a ceiling- or wall-mounted diffuser.

Each SolarVenti unit is supplied with an on/off switch to stop the fan from running when outside conditions are excessively hot. Larger units are supplied with fan speed regulator or thermostat to give more precise control of internal conditions.

Available from Global Export Solutions, ph:(03) 9830 2161, fax:(03) 98302164, email: arne.hachmann@ges.com.au, www.ges.com.au

Great thongs, no sweat!

Most low-cost footwear (and indeed, most clothing) comes out of Asia, usually from factories with poor working conditions and very low rates of pay—otherwise known as sweat shops. No Sweat is an organisation selling clothing and footwear made in 100% unionised factories.

The Tsong Thong range of thongs is one of their products. They are made of rubber-based EVA with plastic straps, with colourful designs silkscreened onto the insole. Each thong features an original design by one of four young orphans from the tsunami-devastated Aceh Province in Indonesia.

A portion of the profits (30%) goes to rebuilding schools in Aceh and to a scholarship fund for the artists. The rest goes to building up a brand that is aimed at stamping out child labor.

RRP: \$18.00

These, and many other great items, are available from the US-based company No Sweat Apparel, www.nosweatapparel.com. The thongs are also available from Friends of the Earth Melbourne store for the above RRP, 312 Smith St, Collingwood VIC 3066, ph:(03) 9417 4564, email: bookshop@foe.org.au, www.melbourne.foe.org.au

