3. Spend less on water

The facts

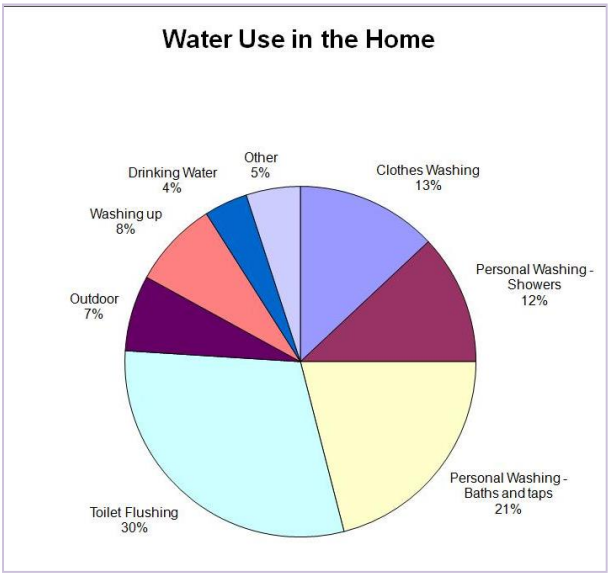
Each person in the UK currently uses about 150 litres of water every day and this average has been rising consistently since the 1930s. This consumption level is not sustainable in the long term. If we do not take action now, climate change, population shifts and wasteful behaviour mean the UK will face increased water stress in the future.

Although it seems to rain a lot here, in fact the UK has less available water per person than most other European countries. London is drier than Istanbul, and the South East of England has less water available per person than the Sudan and Syria. Most parts of the UK have experienced drought in the past decade.

About a third of the water we use on a daily basis is wasted – this is what we want to cut down. The key to water efficiency is reducing waste, not necessarily restricting your use. You can easily reduce waste by making small behavioural changes and by choosing more water efficient products.

Saving water will not only help save the environment and limit climate change, but if you are on a water meter it will save you money on your water bill, and using less hot water will save you money on your energy bill too (see page 3.6 to see if you'd be better off on a meter).

Typical average household water use



3.3 SPEND LESS ON WATER

The Practical Action Plan

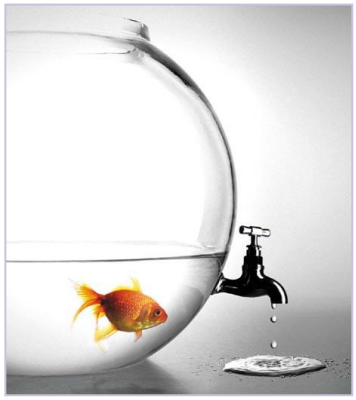
So what can you do about it?

• Each of these actions can significantly reduce the amount of water that your household uses. Even if you are not on a meter, it is important to conserve this most precious resource, and to consider the related CO_2 emissions that come from the processing and pumping of all the water that we waste.

• Some of these actions will cost you little or nothing, and some will cost you a little money (but this should be offset by the reduction in your water bill).

• In your team, have a brief chat about each item and then decide which ones you want to tackle and when. Record your own action plan on the page at the end of this section.

- **Know how much you are using** (3.4)
- **Feeling flushed** (3.8)
- **Taps, drips and leaks** (3.12)
- **Showers and baths** (3.14)
- **Washing clothes** (3.16)
- **The kitchen sink** (3.18)
- **Outdoors** (3.20)



• The actions listed above are the basic (but most cost-effective) things you can do in your home. At the end of the section are several other actions that you may wish to consider, once you've done the basics.

Notes

3.4 KNOW HOW MUCH YOU ARE USING

The Practical Action Plan

Cost: none	£ Savings: low	Effort: low	CO_2 saved: low

Challenge

As we saw in the energy section, we can't manage something if we can't measure it. Relying on twice yearly meter readings from Wessex Water does not give us much information about our water consumption, or if it is going up or down as a result of the actions we are taking.

Once you know how to read your meter, you can also do regular, simple checks for leaks. (Find out if you should be on a meter on page 3.6.)

Solution

Read your own water meter regularly. Just being more aware of how much water you use will have a positive impact on your household's water wastage. It shows you the actual results and savings from all your efforts with the other actions in this section.

This is generally a little more hassle than reading your electricity or gas meter, as water meters tend to be located in the pavement outside your property. They are usually in a special meter box, under a metal cover that you need a screwdriver to lever up. Or your meter may be inside your property close to where the water service pipe enters it. See page 3.7 for advice on reading your meter.

To check for leaks, read your meter just before you go away for a few days, then read it again as soon as you get back. Assuming nothing in the house should have been using water, you can quickly tell if there's a leak somewhere as the meter reading will have gone up in your absence.

Yes but... I have no idea where my meter is. If you can't find your meter then call Wessex Water on **0845 600 3 600** and they will be able to tell you where it is.

Sample water meter readings log

Date	Water Meter Reading	Usage
01/12/2010	3785	n/a
08/12/2010	3792	7
15/12/2010	4000	8
22/12/2010	4007	7

Notes

Next steps, hints & tips

• Complete the usage calculator on page 3.24 to estimate your annual consumption. Compare it to the average of 150 litres per person per day.

• WW suggests that you check your meter at least monthly, particularly if your meter is located outside your property. You pay for leaking water!

• If you're making changes to reduce water use, try reading your meter weekly for a while, and see what difference it's making. Use the sample water meter readings log provided above.

• Keep the log visible – stick it on the fridge so everyone in the household can see it. You may consider rewarding everyone for their efforts by sharing some of the savings!

• If there's more than one meter outside your house, check the meter number against the number on one of your bills to make sure you're reading the right one.

More info: see South West Water's guide to reading your water meter over the page. See water saving tips on www.wessexwater.co.uk/saving-water/

Water meters

- **Would it be cheaper for me to be on a water meter?**

- In the South West nearly half of all the homes are metered (versus 30% elsewhere in the UK). That means half are still being charged water rates, where price is fixed depending on a home's 'rateable value', and the amount of water used is irrelevant to price.

- The average unmetered bill in England and Wales is £361, while the average metered bill is £305. This means that if your water usage is reasonable you could make a substantial saving by switching to a water meter. Ofwat calculates that the typical customer who switches to a meter can save up to 5–10% of their bill. However, this does depend on the number of people in the house and the way they use water.

- Note that you are charged for every cubic metre (1,000 litres or 220 gallons) that you use, plus you are also charged for 'sewerage' (the removal and cleaning of waste water).

So how can you tell if you'd be better off on a water meter? As a rough rule of thumb, if there are more bedrooms in your house than people, you should consider getting a meter. For a quick online calculation try www.uswitch.com/water .

You can also call or check the website of your water company for their calculator. You have up to 12 months to request a switch back to the rated system.

3.7 ADVICE ON READING YOUR METER

Courtesy of South West Water (SWW)

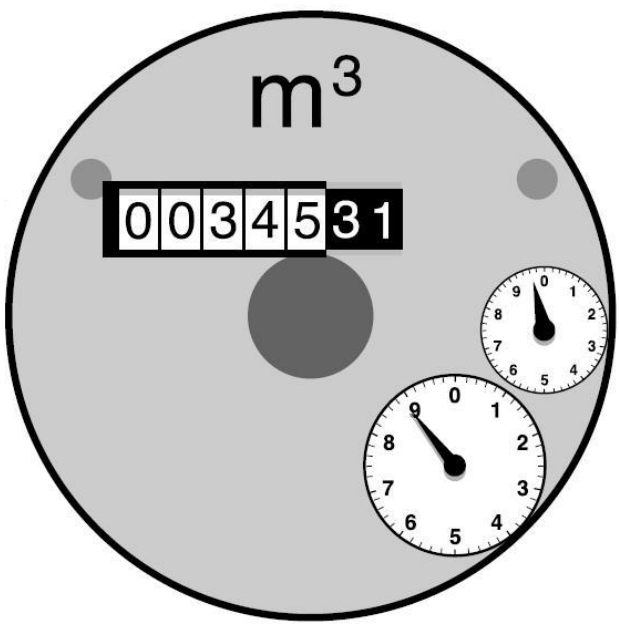
• Once you have lifted the cover on the meter box you may see a polystyrene plug which protects your meter against frost. Please remove it to read your meter but remember to replace it afterwards.

• There are two sets of numbers: black numbers on the left and red numbers on the right. The black numbers record the amount of water which has been used in cubic metres. The red numbers represent fractions of a cubic metre.

• Only the black numbers are used for billing purposes. Therefore if you are reading the meter to correct what you believe is an inaccurate estimate, you only have to report the figure recorded by the black numbers. For example, the reading on the meter in the picture below would be 345 cubic metres.

• Please telephone your supplier's helpline if you have any difficulties in reading the figures on your meter.

• Note: If you live in an older property you may have a different type of meter fitted.



Transition Together

3.8 FEELING FLUSHED

The Practical Action Plan

Cost: none	£ Savings: med	Effort: low	CO_2 saved: low

Challenge

About a quarter of all the clean, drinkable (expensive!) water we use in our homes is flushed down a toilet.

An old style single flush toilet can use up to 13 litres of water in one flush. New, more water-efficient dual-flush toilets use only 6 litres for a full flush, and 4 litres with a reduced flush.

Solution

If your toilet is pre 2001 (see guide over page), consider installing a cistern displacement device (CDD) such as a 'Save a flush' bag or a Hippo/Hog. These are available for free from most water companies. They are simply put in the toilet cistern where they displace about 1 litre of water every time you flush.

Note that save-a-flush bags are only suitable for 9 litre toilets and above. Performance can vary between toilet types. A video showing how to fit a save-a-flush bag can be seen at:
www.wessexwatershop.co.uk/videos

Yes but... our loo doesn't flush well anyway, won't this make it even worse? Don't use a CDD on cisterns of 6 litres or less. Try a smaller device if you need to flush twice. Remove it altogether if even the smallest one causes a problem – the idea is to reduce flushing, not increase it!

Transition Together

3.9 FEELING FLUSHED

Your savings

Considering the average household flushes 4,000 times per year, savings of up to 5,000 litres per year could be achieved just by simply installing a cistern displacement device. This could save you about £20 per toilet if you are on a meter.

Notes

Save £20 per year per toilet on your water bill. Costs are nothing or a few pounds.

Next steps, hints & tips

- Use the table on the next two pages to identify what type of toilet you have, and what type of cistern displacement device or CDD (if any) you should be using.
- Measure the capacity of your cistern with a jug if you're not sure.
- Get your free CDD from Wessex Water (WW). Call 0845 600 3 600 or order one online via info@wessexwater.co.uk.
- Make your own from a large plastic bottle filled with water or sand and well sealed.
- Flush less often - if it's yellow let it mellow, if it's brown, flush it down! This can drastically reduce usage.
- Check the water level in your cistern stays below the overflow, or else water is constantly wasted.

Transition Together

3.10 FEELING FLUSHED

Photo	Year	Type	Flush	Water consumption	CDD
	Post 1 Jan 2001	Modern continental style push button cistern	Dual	Full - 6 litres Half -4 litres	Not required
	Pre 1 Jan 2001	Close coupled WC	Single	7.5 litres	Save-A-Flush bag
	1980-1970	Close coupled double trap syphonic pan	Single	9 litres	Hippo or Save-A-Flush bag or Freddie Frog
	1970 - 1950	Close coupled	Single	9 litres	Hippo or Save-A-Flush bag or Freddie Frog

Photo	Year	Type	Flush	Water consumption	CDD
	1950 - 1940		Single	10 litres	Hippo or Save-A-Flush bag or Freddie Frog
	Pre 1940		Single	12 litres	Hippo or Save-A-Flush bag or Freddie Frog
	Pre 1940		Single	12 litres	Hippo or Save-A-Flush bag or Freddie Frog

* source: Waterwise, pictures courtesy of www.twyfordsbathrooms.com

Transition Together

3.12 TAPS, DRIPS & LEAKS

The Practical Action Plan

Cost: none-low | **£ Savings: med** | **Effort: low** | **CO_2 saved: low**

Challenge

Often our water bill is higher than it needs to be, and we're not even using the water we're paying for! For example, a running tap wastes over 6 litres per minute.

Dripping taps are not just annoying, they add up to staggering water losses as you can see in this table, based on average costs. Dripping taps often just need a new washer, which costs only pence. Leaky pipes are also just dripping away your money, inside or out.

Rate	Litres lost / year	£ lost / year
1 drop per second	5,000	£20
Drops breaking to a stream	31,000	£123
2mm stream	146,000	£580
5mm stream	526,000	£2,088

If you don't believe these figures, then place a measuring jug below your dripping tap, and time how long it takes to fill.

Solution

Check regularly for drips and leaks. To fix a dripping tap, first of all, try changing the washer. Also make sure your water pipes and external taps are lagged in time for the cold winter months. Burst water pipes can cause serious damage as well as waste a lot of water.

Yes but... I changed the washer and it's still dripping. A dripping tap usually means that the tap washer needs renewing, but it can also be caused by a damaged valve seating. If the drip is from a mixer nozzle, then change both tap washers.

Your savings

You can save about £40 if you stop leaving the tap running while you brush your teeth (assuming you do this for two minutes twice a day) .. or wash the veg or rinse the dishes...

Fix a dripping tap and save £22 per year. Turn tap off when brushing, save £40 per year.

Notes

Next steps, hints & tips

- See www.diydoctor.org.uk for an online 'how-to' guide for fixing drips.
- Search for a www.youtube.com video called "Collins DIY Survival Demos - How to Fix a Dripping Tap".
- Your local hardware store may offer written guides or will give you specific advice.
- If you're not into DIY, contact a local plumber or handyman to do it for you.
- Check your pipes regularly for visible leaks.

Transition Together

3.14 SHOWERS & BATHS

The Practical Action Plan

Cost: none-med	£ Savings: med	Effort: low	CO_2 saved: low

Challenge

Baths typically use 80–100 litres of water, whereas an ordinary shower uses about a third of that amount. Over a year, if you have four baths a week, this equates to an extra £60 worth of water (plus all the costs of heating the extra water). Using showers most of the time (with the occasional bath, after a hard day of digging for example!) will give significant savings.

The average Brit spends 7.2 minutes in the shower and this average is increasing. Power showers are very popular and can easily use more water than a bath. While invigorating, they pump as much as 16 litres of water a minute – more than the average person living in the developing world gets through in a day. In fact, even a 5-minute power shower can use more water than a bath. Changing the shower head will reduce both your water and energy bills.

Solution

Different showerheads are available which reduce the flow, but keep a good pressure. By replacing your showerhead with a more water efficient model it is possible to reduce your water consumption by more than half, whilst still enjoying a great shower. A shower timer shows how much time you have spent in the shower, and can help you save water. Or shower with the plug in to see how much you use.

Yes but... I really do <u>need</u> to shower every day. Don't take fewer showers – reduce the volume of water used and the time you spend in the shower. You can still have a great shower experience, save money on water and energy, preserve a valuable resource and reduce your CO_2 emissions.

3.15 SHOWERS & BATHS

The Practical Action Plan

Savings

Replacing a power shower with a low-flow shower head could save around 35 litres every day – or £53 per year off your water bill and £20 off your hot water bill. If you have a power shower, every minute you cut off your showering time can save as much as 16 litres of water (another £24 per year).

Next steps, hints & tips

- Buy a low-flow shower head, which can limit the water flow to as little as 7 litres a minute (cost from about £15). Not suitable for electric showers or low-pressure (less than 0.5 bar) gravity shower systems.
- Buy an aerated shower head (from about £25), which adds air pressure to the flow. Not suitable for some electric or low-pressure gravity systems.
- You can buy tap aerators for regular taps too for about £5 (reduces the flow, not the performance).
- Get a shower timer to help limit your (and your teenagers' ?!) time. Some can tell you how much water you are using, and alerts you when you've had the max recommended amount (35 litres).
- These products are generally available online through sites such as www.biggreensmile.com and www.savewatersavemoney.co.uk.
- Wessex Water provides a free WaterSave pack for customers, including a shower flow regulator, shower timer and a save-a-flush bag, see www.wessexwatershop.co.uk/freepack. The Wessex Water Shop site also promotes low water-using products such as showerheads – www.wessexwatershop.co.uk
- Have a cooler shower, which also helps you to avoid temporary varicose veins. You'll tend to get out of there quicker too.
- Save the cold water that runs while waiting for the hot – keep a bucket or watering can handy then water the plants or flush the loo once you've finished.
- If you do have a bath, you can siphon out your bath water and use it to water your garden. WaterGreen is one such siphon pump, costs about £20.

Transition Together

3.16 WASHING CLOTHES

The Practical Action Plan

Cost: none | **£ Savings: low-med** | **Effort: low** | **CO_2 saved: low**

Challenge

The average water consumption of washing machines is about 50 litres per wash – although now less than it used to be, it's still quite a bit of water. Clothes washing accounts for about 13% of the water that we use in our homes, so by reducing wastage in this area we can make significant water savings – the average family does 274 loads a year.

Solution

Washing machines vary tremendously in how much water they use per wash: when adjusted for capacity, some use as much as 20 litres per kilogram while others as little as 6 litres.

When using your washing machine make sure you know about the different cycles – many have a half load or eco load option. Take a look at the manual which should tell you how much water (and energy) the different options use. If you plan to buy a new one, make sure that it's water efficient.

Washing at a lower temperature doesn't save water, but it will save on your water heating costs. Many powders and liquids are designed to work at lower temperatures of 30-40 degrees, and they work well.

Yes but... I have to keep up with the washing, or else it becomes a mountain in this house! Consider how often you really need to wash your clothes. After every wear? We often wash things that don't need it out of habit – if it doesn't look dirty or smell, it may last another day!

Next steps, hints & tips

• When replacing your old washing machine, make sure to buy a water efficient model. See rankings at www.waterwise.org.uk for guidance, and ask your local retailer for more info.

• More expensive models that use less water will generally still save you money in the long run.

• When using your washing machine, make sure you use a full load every time. Surveys have shown that a typical load of laundry is usually much less than the maximum capacity of the model.

• If you really need to do a wash but don't have a full load, use the half load feature. However some half loads will use almost as much water as a full load – so two half loads will use more water and energy than one full load.

• If you're purchasing a new machine, choose a model with a capacity that is appropriate for your situation. If you live alone, you're unlikely to need a model that can wash 10kg of clothing.

• Familiarise yourself with the cycle options of your washing machine. Some settings provide the same cleaning power but with less water and energy. Check your user manual or contact the manufacturer.

• Avoid pre-washing. Most modern washing machines and washing powders are so effective that you don’t have to pre-wash.

• Try using eco-balls rather than liquid or solid detergents – this works out at 3p per wash and they really do clean (although some whites may need extra help!)

Notes:

Transition Together

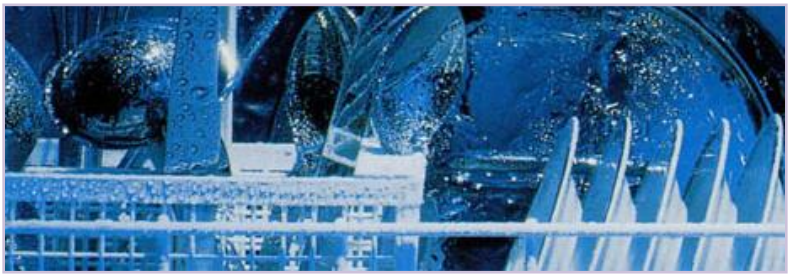
3.18 THE KITCHEN SINK

The Practical Action Plan

Cost: none-low	£ Savings: low-med	Effort: low	CO_2 saved: low

Challenge

The kitchen tap and dishwasher account for about 8–14% of water used in the home, so there's a huge opportunity here to reduce water wastage. Kitchen taps vary tremendously in flow volume, from 2 to 25 litres per minute, and behaviour such as how much you twist the tap, and for how long you leave it on, influence how much water is used when you wash up.



Solution

For example, washing up or rinsing dishes under a running tap can use dozens of litres of water, but if you use a washing up bowl or plug your sink, you can reduce water wastage by 50% or more.

A common misconception is that dishwashers use more water. In fact, these machines can be water savers – if used wisely. In the 1970s, dishwashers used as much as 50 litres per cycle, but modern models can use as little as 10 litres – sometimes even less than washing up by hand.

Yes but... sometimes I have to wait for ages for hot water to arrive at the tap, which wastes lots of cold water down the sink. Firstly lag the pipes. Also, collect all the waste cold water in a watering can that you leave by the sink, then use it on the garden or your houseplants (or to cool down the over-hot water).

3.19 THE KITCHEN SINK

Next steps, hints & tips

• Consider installing a more water efficient tap, or a tap aerator – aerators in particular are cheap and simple quick fixes that you can do yourself.

• When washing up by hand, either use a washing up bowl or plug your sink. Then you can use left over water to water your houseplants.

• Try to avoid having to thaw frozen foods under running water.

• Keep a jug of water in the fridge so that you don't have to run the tap for ages while waiting for cold water to flow.

• Avoid installing a waste disposal unit in your sink - they require lots of water to operate properly. Compost your food waste (see page 5.12).

• When using your dishwasher, make sure you use a full load every time. Two half loads use more water and energy than one full load.

• Become familiar with the cycle options of your dishwasher for lower temperature/duration cycles. Check your user manual or contact the manufacturer.

• Most modern dishwashers are so effective that you don't ever have to pre-rinse.

• Use the minimum amount of water required when you boil water in saucepans and kettles – you'll save energy as well as water.

More info: see www.waterwise.org.uk or give Waterwise a call on 0207 344 1882 and they will be happy to help with any questions.

The Practical Action Plan

Cost: low-med	£ Savings: med-high	Effort: low	CO_2 saved: low-med

Challenge

Outdoor water use accounts for around 7% of the total water use, but in the summer this can rise to over 50% of demand. Many of us still use very expensive, drinking-quality tap water on our lawns and gardens. However even this option can be denied us by law during times of drought.

Solution

Consider what you plant, don't overwater, look for more drought tolerant varieties. Allow the plants to grow strong roots to seek water and mulch around them to retain moisture. By carrying out water-efficient gardening practices, you can still have a beautiful, living garden even in times of extreme drought.

Rain water is better than tap water for your plants. Try to avoid having to use tap water to water the garden. Instead collect rainwater in a water butt, and/or consider re-using dirty water, or greywater (from anywhere but the toilets) on the garden. See page 3.26 for more info on greywater and on rainwater harvesting systems.

Wessex Water has produced useful tips on its website: see www.wessexwater.co,uk/saviingwater

Yes but... I can't use my old bath water for the garden due to all the bubble bath. Soil and potting composts are generally ok at filtering out soap and detergents – sometimes the residue even acts as a mild fertiliser. The eco varieties are generally better than regular. The Royal Horticultural Society does not recommend using greywater on edible crops.

Transition Together
3.21 OUTDOORS

The Practical Action Plan

Your savings

A hosepipe uses as much as 18 litres of water per minute. A watering can instead, if filled from your water butt, saves £135 per year (if you typically use the hose for 15 mins/day for say four months of the year).

Next steps, hints & tips

• If you must use a hose, consider fitting it with a trigger gun to control the flow (although during a hosepipe ban you will need to use a watering can).

• Invest in a butt (or several). Your roof collects about 85,000 litres of rain per year. This could fill 450 water butts with free water for your garden or car-washing.

• Sprinklers can use as much as 1,000 litres of water per hour! If you really must, use it early in the morning or late in the evening.

• Rather than washing your car with a running hosepipe, try using a bucket and sponge instead (ideally fill the bucket from the butt).

• Mulching will not only keep away water-loving weeds, but will also keep the soil cool and decrease evaporation by up to 75%.

• Giving your plant roots a good soaking once or twice a week in dry weather is much better than lightly watering them every day.

• Think about mixing some drought resistant bedding and perennial plants to your garden to add diversity and increase resilience.

• Don’t overwater – there is no need for hanging baskets and containers to drip after watering. Overwatering also weakens plants.

• Water should be directed underneath the foliage. There should be enough to wet the top 30cm (12in) of soil, where most plant roots are.

• It’s ok to let your lawn go brown – it will recover immediately after rainfall. Even the Queen had a brown lawn during the recent hosepipe ban!

• Use pressure washers sparingly – if you must use one to wash your patio furniture or bike, do it on the lawn so the water gets reused.

Transition Together

3.22 YOUR WATER ACTION PLAN

The Practical Action Plan

Reminder

Possible actions:

- Know how much you are using (3.4)
- Feeling flushed (3.8)
- Taps, drips & leaks (3.12)
- Showers & baths (3.14)
- Washing clothes (3.16)
- The kitchen sink (3.18)
- Outdoors (3.20)

What other ideas does your team have that aren't covered above? Add them below if you think they are relevant for you...

My actions	Already done	When I'll do this	Notes

Group actions

How can you help each other out in your team? List team actions here (with named person and due date)…

3.23 WATER: THE BIGGER PICTURE DISCUSSION

The Practical Action Plan

Questions for discussion

Each Briton uses about 150 litres of tap water a day, but if you include the amount of water embedded within products, our water consumption is actually around 3,400 litres every day! About 70% of the embedded water that we consume comes from other nations, as we import goods and services into our country.

About two-thirds of the water that we consume is embedded in our food. For example, it takes about 13 litres of water to produce a tomato; an apple has about 70 litres embedded in it; a pint of beer about 170 litres; a glass of milk about 200 litres; and a hamburger about 2,400 litres.

If present levels of consumption continue, two-thirds of the global population will live in areas of water stress by 2025. The UK has already witnessed some of its worst droughts ever. Though we might envision our nation as lush and rainy, we are not immune to water scarcity problems. We, too, can run out of water.

- Besides water efficiency, what else can we do to reduce our overall water consumption?
- Do you feel you have enough information to make informed choices about the water impacts of what you buy?
- Should the government insist all households are metered to help ensure we take water efficiency more seriously?

Q A

How *much water can I expect to use?*

continued...

To get a more accurate picture about your household's likely annual water use, you might like to complete the questionnaire set out below:

Activity	Litres		Frequency	(litres)	Water used
Bath	114	x		(no. per week)	
Shower (ordinary)	35	x		(no. per week)	
Shower (power)	90	x		(no. per week)	
Toilet flushes	9	x		(no. per day) x 7	
Automatic washing machine	114	x		(no. of uses per week)	
Dishwasher	40	x		(no. of uses per week)	
Cooking, drinking, handbasin use, washing dishes and clothes by hand	25	x		(no. of people in house) x 7	
				Weekly use:	
				x 52 = Annual use:	
					Plus
Hosepipe/sprinkler	23	x		(no. of minutes used a week)	
		x		(number of weeks used) =	
				Total annual use:	

Note: "The Story of Stuff" team have produced a 7-minute animated film about bottled water. You can view it at http://www.storyofstuff.org/movies-all/story-of-bottled-water/http

Overview and where to go for more information

Purchasing a water-efficient toilet

Many toilets today feature a dual flush option to help you save water. These types of toilets have a split flush button giving the user the choice of pressing a small button or a large button, depending on how much water is required to clear the toilet bowl. Look for dual flush toilets if you are considering purchasing a new toilet for your home, and ask how much water they use.

Detecting leaks and repairing your toilet

An easy way to check if your toilet has a slow leak, is to add a few drops of food colouring to your toilet cistern. Don't flush the toilet for at least one hour. If the food colouring shows up in the toilet bowl after an hour, then you've got a leak.

It is recommended that you get a licensed plumber to fix any leaks. Plumbers know which seals and washers are right for different toilets. However if you are a handy-person, take the parts of the toilet that need replacing to your local hardware store or plumbing retail outlet. The staff there will help you choose the correct replacement parts. Remember to repeat the food colouring test to make sure you have fixed the leak.

Overview and where to go for more information

Rainwater harvesting

If it is correctly collected and stored, rainwater can be used for toilets, washing machines and watering gardens without further treatment. In practice, most domestic roof areas are too small to satisfy all this potential demand regardless of the size of the storage cistern, so it is important to evaluate the potential savings before investing in an expensive installation.

Solutions range from sophisticated systems with large underground tanks with pumps, storing thousands of litres, to smaller scale DIY systems that simply gravity feed rainwater from large wall mounted butts through the outside wall to a toilet cistern. The garden water butt is the simplest way of collecting rainwater. It does not need any treatment or mains backup, and it does not have to supply water when temperatures are below freezing. Raising the height of the water butt increases the available water pressure, but make sure this is done safely.

Greywater re-use systems

Greywater refers to all household waste water other than waste water from the toilet (blackwater). Greywater from baths, showers and washbasins is less contaminated than that from the kitchen. Typically, domestic reuse systems collect greywater and store it before reusing it to flush the toilet. More advanced systems treat greywater to a standard that, it is claimed, can be used in washing machines and the garden. The most basic systems simply divert cooled and untreated bath water to irrigate the garden. Systems for flushing the toilet can save around a third of daily household water demand. A trial by the Environment Agency showed a range of water savings from about 5% to 36%. As newer properties tend to have more water-efficient toilets, the maximum savings in a new build might be closer to 20%.

For more information on both of these options see www.environment-agency.gov.uk/homeandleisure/drought.

3.27 LOCAL WATER COMPANIES

Wessex Water,
1 Clevedon Walk, Nailsea, Bristol BS48 1WW
Telephone: 0845 600 3 600 (8am to 6pm, Monday to Friday)
Minicom: 0845 6 056 585
Text telephone for those with impaired hearing
email: customer.services@wessexwater.co.uk
Please include your customer reference number and/or billing address in all contact to us.
http://www.wessexwater.co.uk

Notes: