

WATER SAVING



Water is a very precious resource, which we need not only to drink but also to wash in, grow food, for leisure and as a beautiful part of our environment.

Less than 20% of the high quality drinking water that is pumped to our homes is used for drinking or in the kitchen. We use a third for personal washing and almost the same amount for flushing the toilet, around 13% for washing clothes and a further 7% is used outside.

HOME WATER SAVING TIPS

- Install a flush saving device in your cistern (or put a brick in!)
- Run your washing machine with full loads
- Only boil as much water as you need
- Don't leave the taps running and fix leaks
- Install tap aerators
- Check your water meter (or water bill) to see how much you are using – maybe set yourself a target to reduce
- put a bucket under the shower to collect unused cold water and use to flush the loo
- limit showers to four minutes (especially if you have a power shower)

If you are replacing any water-using appliances in your home look for the water efficiency rating of new ones (see www.waterwise.org.uk) and remember, if you are saving hot water you are saving energy too.



OUTDOOR WATER SAVING TIPS

The simplest way to collect rainwater is the water butt, for use on the garden. It is possible to install larger rain collection tanks to feed the washing machine or to flush toilets but these systems are expensive, so try simpler water saving tips first

- Wash the car with a bucket and sponge – or let the rain wash it!
- Think about the water needs of plants when you are buying
- Mulch or woodchip flowerbeds to reduce evaporation (and weeds!)
- Water in the evening so minimal water is lost to evaporation
- Reuse bath or shower water for occasional plant watering



FLOOD PROTECTION AND ADVICE: USEFUL CONTACTS

St Denys and West Itchen Community Tide news (community website including tide times, flood preparation advice etc) <http://itchtides.org.uk/>

CCATCHSolent - Coastal Communities adapting to Change (raising awareness and understanding amongst Solent communities of coastal change particularly sea level rise) http://www.solentforum.org/current/CCATCH/Aims_and_objectives/

National Flood Forum (national charity dedicated to supporting and representing communities and individuals at risk of flooding) <http://nationalfloodforum.org.uk/>

Environment Agency floodline (public information service providing current flood alerts and warnings and flood advice) 0845 988 1188

Avoid adding more tarmac or paving to your property – it reduces drainage and may make flooding more likely for you or others.

THINK DRAINS ...

If you have mains drainage, everything you flush down the toilet, sinks and shower or pour into your drains goes via the sewage treatment works to our waterways. You can reduce your impact on these by using eco-friendly washing and laundry products and not flushing flush nappies etc down the loo....put them in the bin. Remember that road drains go straight to the sea without any processing.



WATER FOOTPRINT

Water is also "embedded" in things we use every day, for example in manufacturing or food growing. For more information see <http://virtualwater.eu>

USEFUL CONTACTS

Environment Agency www.gov.uk/government/organisations/environment-agency

Anglian water (useful information on water reuse systems)

www.anglianwater.co.uk/developers/plumbers/reuse-systems.aspx

Waterwise www.waterwise.org.uk

WaterTwo (simple grey water recycling products) www.watertwo.co.uk

GS2 water filter (filters rainwater to drinking quality), available from various online retailers

The Energy Saving Trust: www.energysavingtrust.org.uk

Advice and information on water saving

CAT (Centre for Alternative Technology) provide advice on water saving

www.cat.org.uk 01654 705950