

**PLAY YOUR PART,
BE WATER SMART**



**GET INTO
WATER**

IT'S ABOUT THE ENVIRONMENT...

Small changes make a big difference!

The effects of climate change mean now, more than ever, we need to do everything we can to help nature out. Saving water is essential to our precious environment. The less we use, the more we can keep our rivers and streams flowing and nature thriving.

There are many simple ways to save water. Small changes can make a big difference when multiplied by the 2 million people in the areas we serve.

AND IT'S ABOUT YOU...

HAVE A LOOK AT WHAT YOU CAN DO TO SAVE WATER IN YOUR HOME AND GARDEN!

If you're not convinced your efforts can help save the planet, think about the difference they might make to your budget. If that's not reason enough to make some changes, what is?

Small changes make a big difference



HAPPY RIVERS,
HAPPY OTTERS!

WHAT YOU CAN DO...

IN YOUR BATHROOM

AMAZING FOR YOUR WALLET...

BY DOING ONLY THESE EASY THINGS, A FAMILY OF 4 COULD SAVE OVER **£856** A YEAR!

CHALLENGE

Take the minute shower challenge

The average shower lasts 8 minutes and uses approximately 120 litres of water. Reducing your shower time to 4 minutes could save up to 60 litres per shower.

TOP TIPS

- Wait until you're ready before turning on your shower
- Consider turning off your shower while shampooing
- You can save even more water by using a **FREE shower timer** – visit southwestwater.co.uk/savewater

POTENTIAL SAVINGS PER PERSON, PER YEAR!

up to 21,900 litres = **£115**

£

£

£

Regulate your shower

A regulated shower head can reduce the water used to eight litres per minute.

- If you have a mixer shower, fit a regulated shower head to reduce the flow rate. Get your **FREE Shower Regulator device** at southwestwater.co.uk/savewater

up to 10,220 litres = **£53**

£

Tap off!

- Turning the tap off when you brush your teeth can save 24 litres of water, per person, per day
- You don't need to wet your toothbrush first – turn the tap on only to rinse your brush

up to 8,760 litres = **£46**

£

GREAT FOR THE ENVIRONMENT!

163,520 litres

PER FAMILY, PER YEAR!

That's the equivalent of over 2,000 baths full of water!

* The potential savings calculations in this leaflet are based on typical average water use and upon standard metered water and sewerage charges.



WHAT YOU CAN DO...

WITH YOUR TOILET



Did you know?

About 1/3 of all the clean drinkable water we use in our home is flushed straight down the loo!

CHALLENGE

To flush or not to flush...

We use the toilet 6 to 10 times a day and flush away as many as 130 litres of water!

TOP TIPS

- While your pee isn't pristine, it's clean enough to leave in your toilet for a few hours: if it's yellow, let it mellow. If it's brown, flush it down
- And remember: only flush the 3Ps – pee, paper and poo – down the loo.

POTENTIAL SAVINGS

PER PERSON, PER YEAR!

up to
23,725 litres
= **£124**



Cistern check!

Devices like the Hippo bag can save up to 2.5 litres per flush.

DUAL-FLUSH BUTTON



- Check the water level in all cisterns at least once a year and adjust the float lower to reduce the level
- Fit a dual-flush cistern or convert your existing cistern. Make sure all the family know how to use it correctly
- Don't have a dual-flush cistern? Get a **FREE Hippo bag**. They are easily installed in your cistern – visit southwestwater.co.uk/savewater

up to
9,125 litres
= **£48**



Fix that leaky loo

A leaking toilet wastes between 215 and 400 litres of clean drinking water on average every day.

- Many toilets are 'leaky loos'! Try putting a piece of dry toilet paper on the back of the pan (wait for half an hour after flushing) to help spot a leak

up to
146,000 litres per household
= **£760**



SQUIRREL AWAY YOUR PENNIES

AND HELP PRESERVE ANIMAL HABITATS!



Fixing leaky loos could contribute around 10% of the additional water capacity we would need if we had an extreme drought before 2050.

WHAT YOU CAN DO...

IN YOUR KITCHEN

The average running tap uses **6 litres of water per minute.**

Did you know?

POTENTIAL SAVINGS

PER HOUSEHOLD

up to 18,250 litres = **£95**

£

CHALLENGE

TOP TIPS

Bowl v Tap

Washing up under a running tap requires about 60 litres of water. A washing up bowl only uses 10 – you could save 50 litres every time!

- Turn the tap off and use a bowl when washing dishes and rinsing vegetables
- If you do need to run a tap, turn it down to a trickle; it will work just as well and use up to 50% less water!

Load up!

Get more for your water... and money!

- Only use your dishwasher and washing machine when they are fully loaded and select the eco-cycle option if available
- Upgrade – newer appliances can use as much as 50% less water and energy than older models, saving you up to 27,500 litres of water a year!

up to 27,500 litres = **£144**

£

Fix that drip

A leaky tap can waste approximately 21 litres every single day.

- Fit a new tap washer – it only costs a few pence and is quick to fit. Getting that drip fixed means saving two large buckets of water each day

7,665 litres = **£40**

Drinks anyone?

The average person should drink 6 to 8 glasses of water each day.

- Keep a jug of water in the fridge so you don't have to run your tap cold
- Only fill the kettle with as much water as you need (this will save energy too!)
- Adding a **FREE tap aerator** can help to reduce the flow – visit southwestwater.co.uk/savewater

4,320 litres = **£48**

£

THAT'S OVER 288,000 CUPS OF TEA!

MORE MONEY IN YOUR POCKET...

57,735 litres

up to **£301!**

= MORE WATER FOR OUR RIVERS!

WHAT YOU CAN DO...

IN YOUR GARDEN

Gardening typically accounts for much of the additional demand we see during hot weather, and this is where collectively we can all help conserve supplies.

If everyone used a standard sized water butt each summer, **we could save enough water to fill a reservoir!**

Did you know?

TOP TIPS

Water butts

The easiest way to start making savings in your garden is to collect and use rainwater.

- Catch water before it goes down the drain! Invest in a water butt or two. You can use a joining kit to connect two or more butts together for more storage
- Use your rainwater for watering the garden, washing the car, cleaning paths and windows and topping up ponds (fish prefer rainwater)
- Fit a drip irrigation system direct to your water butt. Save time, save forgetting to water

Watering with care

Avoid using your hose if you can. It will use around 16 litres every minute. Use a watering can instead.



- Water less – most mature plants will survive a dry spell
- If your garden needs watering, do so early morning or after sundown to reduce evaporation
- Always try to use a watering can, but if you do use a hose then make sure you have a trigger-operated spray gun attached
- Water direct to the roots, avoiding the foliage
- Stand pots in a base of water-retaining gravel or sand or use saucers under containers to catch runoff water
- Add water-retaining gel to the lower half of compost in planters and hanging baskets

PRICELESS FOR THE ENVIRONMENT...

The average roof collects around 300 full water butts of rain per year! That's over

60,000 litres

AND SUPER COST EFFECTIVE FOR YOU

up to £315!





TOP TIPS

Planting

Tips from our friends at RHS Garden Rosemoor

- Plan your garden for low watering requirements by choosing plants that can resist dry periods such as many succulent or grey and silver-leaved plants
- Create shading and avoid open south-facing areas
- Create natural wind breaks or choose sheltered positions out of direct wind. For example, you could group planters together
- Try planting in spring or autumn when the ground is damp
- Plant trees, shrubs and perennials in the autumn so that they get their roots down before spring
- Provide ground cover with a good mulch. This reduces weeds and shades roots from the drying sun and wind. The best time to mulch is late winter: this will keep your soil cooler and deter weeds. It will also help reduce water evaporation by up to 75%



What to plant?

When the summer heat kicks in, you can rely on these drought-resistant plants to still look beautiful, even in the hottest of conditions. For more information visit www.rhs.org.uk/advice



Rosemary
(*Rosmarinus officinalis*
'Severn Sea')



Allium
(*Allium Cristophii*)



Broom
(*Cytisus 'Burkwoodii'*)



California poppy
(*Eschscholzia californica*
'Mikado')



Yucca
(*Yucca flaccida*
'Golden Sword')



Cistus
(*Cistus x pulverulentus*
'Sunset')



Did you know?

In **one hour** a hosepipe will use the same amount of water a family of four would use in **one day!**



TOP TIPS

Grey water

Domestic wastewater (known as 'grey' water) can be used in the garden.

£

- Plants can be watered with shower, bath, kitchen and washing machine water (from rinse cycles). It varies in quality and may contain contaminants such as soap and detergent. Fortunately, soil and potting composts are effective at filtering them out, and the residues can sometimes act as a mild fertiliser
- Use the water from your washing up bowl to water your plants. Soapy water kills greenfly too
- When rinsing fruit and veg, save the water to re-use on your plants

Less mowing = more time!

- Adjust your lawnmower to cut your grass longer – this will shade the roots from the sun
- Leave cuttings on the lawn – they will form a mulch to protect and feed the grass
- Keep lawns and beds weed-free (they use water too!), but avoid turning soil during dry weather

Other stuff

- Use a bucket and sponge instead of a hose to clean your car (or leave it for another week – it's only going to get dirty!)

Looking to switch?

Did you know, you could save on average up to £400 per year if you switch to a water meter. To find out how much you could save, have a look at our estimated meter savings guide at southwestwater.co.uk/calculator

Now that you have a little extra time, what with not needing to water your plants quite so often or wash your car, or even mow the lawn, why not go to one of our locations and have a lovely walk instead?



Did you know?

The South West Lakes Trust charity manages public access and activities at the reservoirs on our behalf – www.swlakestrust.org.uk



WHAT YOU CAN DO...

TO AVOID LEAKS

Did
you
know?

If you spot a leak you can
call our free 24 hour leak
helpline 0800 230 0561

Take the necessary precautions and be prepared in case you have a leak.

- **Do you know where your main stop tap is and that it works correctly?**

Your internal stop tap is usually under your kitchen sink or where your supply pipe enters your home.

If you can't find it or it isn't working we'd recommend that you ask a plumber for help as it's an insurance requirement to have and be able to operate an internal stop tap in case of an emergency.

- If you're leaving your property for a period turn off your water at the main stop tap.
- Do you know how to turn off your hot water and make it safe?
- Where pipes are fitted in unheated areas, insulate them against frost or heat damage.
- If you have a meter, do you know how to use it to check for leaks? For more information, visit southwestwater.co.uk/my-water-meter
- If you are not on a meter, keep a look out for wet patches that never dry out above your supply pipe. If you are on a meter, check that it stops turning when there's no water being used.

Let's make a big difference! We'd love to hear your ideas for saving water – if you have any top tips on saving water please get in touch by writing to us at:

Freepost SWW Water Smart

or by emailing us at:

myuse@southwestwater.co.uk

**IT'S ABOUT
THE ENVIRONMENT**

AND IT'S ABOUT YOU...



If you have any questions or would like to order your free water-saving devices, visit southwestwater.co.uk/savewater

If you think you may have a leak or would like to report a leak, visit southwestwater.co.uk/leaks

If you would like to switch to a meter, visit southwestwater.co.uk/my-water-meter

If you would like this leaflet in audio format, or larger text please email us at myuse@southwestwater.co.uk



#getintowater