



Water in your garden

Waterwise Water Saving Week is dedicated to raising awareness of how to save water by using it wisely. This is an annual event and coincides with World Water Day. Each week day has a unique theme that will focus on saving water in a particular area whether it be at home, in your garden, at work, at school or in your local community. These information packs (one for each themed day) will help you think about how to save water by giving you challenges to do each day as well as some extra water saving tips! So get involved, take on the challenges, try the tips and let us know how you're doing by tweeting us @Waterwise using #watersavingweek.



Why save water in your garden?

Saving water in your garden can save money and energy:

Water uses energy to be pumped, heated and treated. Why not try using rainwater instead of your tap water to wash your car, water your plants and other garden/outdoor activities? You'll save energy - and money if you are on a water meter!

Saving water in your garden can help reduce the risk of flooding in your local area:

By collecting rainwater in a water butt to use in your garden, you're not only saving water but also preventing that water from just sitting on hard surfaces such as tarmac, or running directly across surfaces and back into rivers too quickly - both of which can contribute towards localised flooding.

Saving water can help your garden to thrive:

Some plants, for example Acers, prefer to be watered with rainwater anyway so give them what they want - helps your garden thrive and saves water, helping to cut your water and energy bills too!



Share how you're doing with our daily challenges by tweeting us: @Waterwise #watersavingweek



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WATER SAVING TIPS

SAVE YOUR RAIN AND TWEET YOUR BUTT!: More than 21,000 litres of rain falls on the roof of an average UK home - a water butt can capture this rain, allowing you to use it in your garden. If you want to catch even more rainwater from your roof it may be cheaper and easier to link two or more water butts. Tweet a picture of your water butt/s to us @Waterwise using #watersavingweek!

PERMEABLE PARKING: If you're an urban dweller and have a parking space instead of a front garden then make it permeable paving to help drainage and reduce the risk of localised flooding. Permeability = sustainability.

CHOOSE YOUR PLANTS APPROPRIATELY: Choose British plants that are appropriate for your local climate. A lot of native British plants are also in fact drought resistant - ask at your local garden centre or check with the Royal Horticultural Society or Horticultural Trades Association.

WATER YOUR FLOWERS WITH...: Water from an old vase of flowers is nutrient rich, pour it round the base of a shrub or on your pot plants. You could also put leftover ice from your drink into the soil of your hanging baskets.

HERDS OF PLANTS: Putting plants close together therefore covering bare soil means no water will go to waste - the plants will shade the soil, reducing evaporation and will also crowd out weeds.

WATER AT THE RIGHT TIME AND IN THE RIGHT WAY: Use a watering can or hose with a trigger to water plants for more direct and less wasteful watering. Try and do this in the morning and evening - midday watering means more water will be lost via evaporation.

WATER EFFICIENT FLOWERS: Many flowers are grown in water stressed parts of the world using lots of water, try and buy Fairtrade local blooms.

KEEP YOUR BUTT CLEAN: Make sure you keep your water butt/s clean - leaf debris, dirt and bird-muck from your roof can contaminate the water in your water butt/s, clean it out once a year.



Water in your garden

This diagram shows how water can be saved and where collected rainwater can be used in your garden. To show us how you are being a water efficient in your garden send us your photos to ws@waterwise.org.uk or tweet them to us @Waterwise using #watersavingweek

A waterwise garden

