



Water in your home

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 home?

Saving water at home helps reduce the amount of water we use (and waste) and can therefore save money and energy:

If we waste less water we are more efficient with our water use - this not only saves water but also money through reducing both your water and energy bills. Did you know that just by fixing a dripping tap could save you £18 a year, not to mention 5,500 litres of water? And that heating water in your home for baths, showers and taps can account for up to 25% of your energy bill?

Saving water at home now helps us to be prepared and able to cope as water becomes more scarce:

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.



WaterSafe – the industry-recognised body that brings together thousands of qualified plumbing businesses in the UK – backs the use of plumbing products which use technology to automatically reduce water and energy consumption, often without the household noticing a difference. These include tap and shower aerators, which add air into the water to maintain the flow while using less water.

Find your nearest WaterSafe approved plumber at www.watersafe.org.uk



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



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WATER SAVING TIPS

BE SEASONAL WITH YOUR EATING: By eating foods that are in season you can help reduce the amount of water used by the agricultural industry - seasonal food is produced in harmony with the weather and therefore doesn't require irrigation which uses even more water.

INSTALL WATER-EFFICIENT DEVICES AND KIT: A water meter can reduce water usage in the home by 15%. Water companies install these for free and can offer water efficiency home audits and sometimes free retrofitting of water-saving devices too - visit your water company's website or ring them up for more information.

TOOTHPASTE TIP: Toothpaste works better when it's dry, you only need to rinse at the end. Try with a glass of water rather than a running tap.

CLEAN SHAVE: Get a good old fashioned razor mug and clean your razor with just 250ml each time.

FOOD WASTE = WATER WASTE: Globally we use 200,000,000 litres a second to produce food. Cut your food waste to help conserve's the Earth's water.

USE A SHOWER TIMER: For every minute you shorten your shower by, you could save up to 7-8 litres of water - it does depend on the power (flow-rate) of your shower though. A good way to start is with a shower timer which can show you how long you spend in the shower and hopefully give you an incentive to cut your shower time. You can also save water by turning your shower off whilst you're soaping or shampooing.

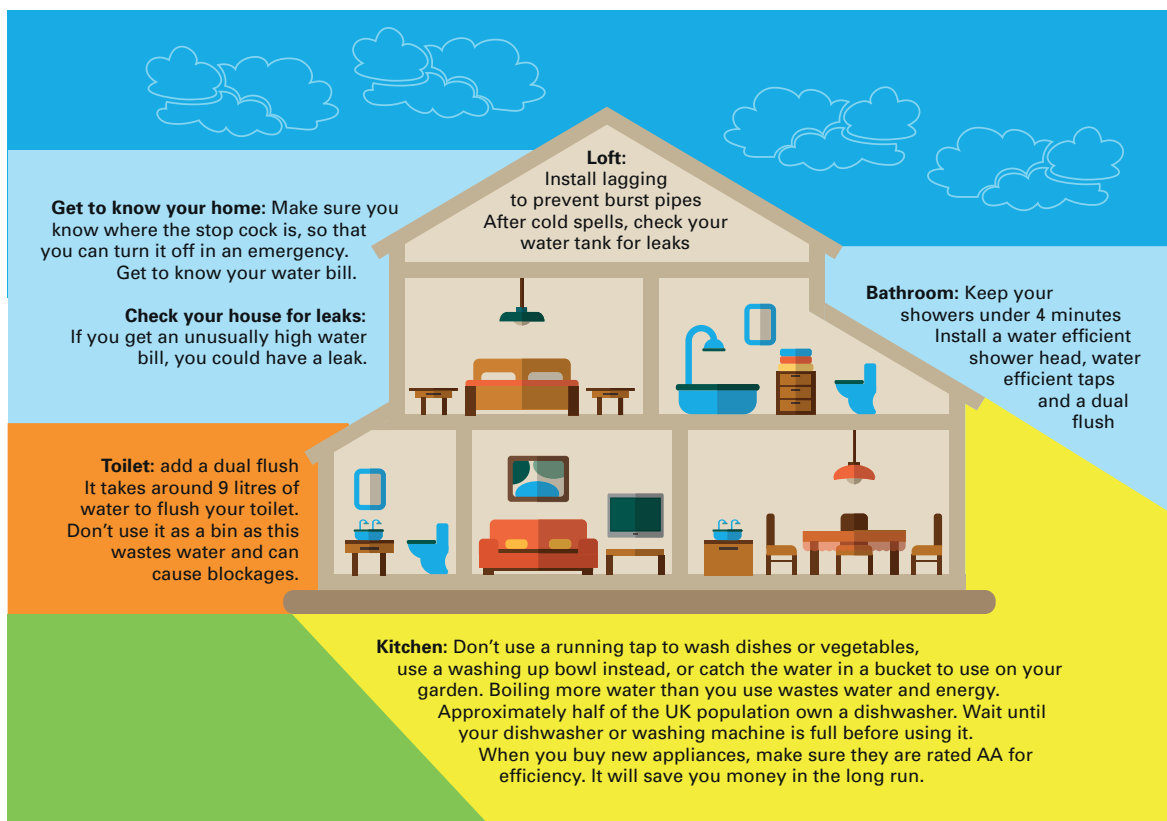
REHEAT COLD DRINKS: If you let your tea or coffee go cold, reheat it in the microwave- this produces 5 times less carbon and saves about a quarter of a litre each time than if you remake it.

RAINING CATS AND DOGS?: When it's dry, wash your pets on the lawn so you don't waste water, and use a bucket instead of a hose.



Water in your home

This diagram shows where water can be saved in your house. To show us how you are being a water efficient at home send us your photos to wsw@waterwise.org.uk or tweet them to us @Waterwise using #watersavingweek





Water in your home

💧 Talking Toilets – Look Before You Leak

Toilets are the cause of one of the most common leaks in the home – did you know that around 1 in 10 homes and businesses have a leaky loo?

A toilet leaking clean water from the cistern to the pan can waste up to 400 litres of water a day (that's five full bath tubs) and add around £300 a year to your water bill if left unfixed.

The sound of a constant trickle at the back of the toilet pan is an obvious sign that something's not right. However, some leaks are silent and easy to miss.

TOP TIP: To check if your loo is leaking contact your local water supplier who may be able to provide you with toilet leak detection strips free of charge.

Alternatively:

- Half an hour after a flush, wipe the back of the pan dry with toilet tissue
- Place a new, dry sheet of toilet tissue across the back of the pan
- Leave it in place for up to three hours without using the toilet, or overnight
- If the paper is wet or torn in the morning – you have a leaky loo.

💧 Find it – Fix it!

Look out for other common leaks from dripping taps, showers, radiators and pipework. Tell-tale signs to look out for are loss of pressure, rust, water stains on the walls, floors or carpets, or mould on ceilings and walls.

Not all leaks are easy to spot. Signs that you may have a hidden leak in the home include a higher than normal water bill if you're on a meter.

For more on how to check for a leak at your property and to find an approved plumber visit watersafe.org.uk/leaks. You can also find us on Twitter [@WatersafeUK](https://twitter.com/WatersafeUK) #leakyloos.

If you find a leak, fix it! Most leaky loo repairs are simple and low-cost to do. Your local WaterSafe approved plumber will get the job done if you need help. They're trained to keep your drinking water safe and help you save water. If you do need to replace a faulty toilet cistern, think about getting a dual flush version fitted that will save you several litres of water every time you flush

