



a guide
to using water
efficiently at
home

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Why should we save water?

We tend to take water for granted because we think that we live in a relatively wet country and there's plenty about. With changing lifestyles, increased population growth and climate change to consider it's important that we all do our bit to use water wisely. Using water wisely doesn't mean being unhygienic it just means being careful. Being water efficient is not about using less water it's about wasting less.

What is Dee Valley Water doing?

Dee Valley Water uses the latest technology to minimise abstraction by reducing leakage from the supply system. This includes installing leakage monitoring devices and pressure controls and providing our customers with assistance to repair their supply pipes.

If you see a leak anywhere in our area of supply, please contact us on Freephone **0800 298 7112** so that we can arrange for the leaking pipe to be repaired.

What can you do?

By conserving water all customers can help protect the environment. Every litre of water saved means that less energy is used for pumping and treating the water you need.

Carry out your own Water Audit

Use the self-audit form to check how your personal use compares but remember you are likely to underestimate your consumption of water. Once you have completed the audit compare your usage to the water usage chart to see if you are using water efficiently.



Self-audit form

Activity	Amount of water (litres)	Times x	Number of uses per week	=	Weekly consumption (litres)
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Taking a bath	80	x	=
Taking a shower	35	x	=
Pumped shower	70	x	=
Flushing toilet	9	x	=
Dishwasher (Normal)	80	x	.....	=	.....
Dishwasher (Eco)	55	x	.....	=	.....
W / Machine (Normal)	80	x	.....	=	.....
W / Machine (Eco)	55	x	.....	=	.....
Carwash (Bucket)	40	x	.....	=	.....
(Hosepipe)	200	x	.....	=	.....
Washing dishes (By hand)	6	x	.....	=	.....
Total					.....

Plus

Cooking and Drinking	70	x Number of people =	..... litres/person
Hand washing & personal hygiene	70	x Number of people =	..... litres/person

Add the totals in the three boxes to give consumption per person per week.

Water usage chart

Water used in litres per person per week

Water usage	Consumption
Very Low	700-770 litres
Low	840-910 litres
Average	980-1190 litres
High	1260-1330 litres
Very High	1400-1540 litres

Cut down on water use – top tips for using water wisely

Use of water in the home



Bathroom and Toilet

- The biggest user of water in the home is the toilet; Did you know that a third of the domestic water supply goes down the toilet?
- If you have a large toilet cistern, an easy way to save water on flushes is to place a filled plastic bottle in the cistern to reduce the volume of water wasted.
- Fitting a save-a-flush (a small bag containing harmless crystals) in your toilet cistern can save up to 1 litre per flush. That's a saving of nearly 2,000 litres per person per year. If everybody in the Dee Valley Water supply area installed a save-a-flush this could amount to a massive saving of 500 Mega-litres per year or 1,000 Olympic-sized swimming pools!
- Contact us on 01978 846946 to request a free, easy to fit save-a-flush or log on to our web-site: www.deevalleygroup.com and fill out the save-a-flush request form.
- A normal shower uses less water and energy than taking a bath saving about 45 litres every time.
- Turn off the tap when cleaning your teeth. Brushing your teeth with the tap running wastes 6 litres per minute.



Kitchen

- Fix leaking taps or toilet overflows. A dripping tap can waste up to 140 litres per week.
- When choosing a new dishwasher or washing machine, pick one that is energy efficient as this saves on water and electricity.
- Always use a full load in washing machines or dishwashers – a full load uses less water than 2 half loads.
- Keep a jug of cool water in the fridge so you don't have to run the tap to get cold water.
- Only fill the kettle with enough water for your needs, this will help keep your fuel bills down too.



External and Garden

- Use a sponge to wash the car rather than a hosepipe. Ten minutes with a hosepipe could waste up to 90 litres.
- Ensure that any exposed pipes are lagged to prevent bursts in cold weather.

- Collect rainwater for use in the garden, it is better for plants and is free. Use hoses sparingly and fit a trigger control.
- Resetting your lawn mower blades to a higher setting encourages more dense growth to trap the morning dew and keeps weeds at bay.
- During the summer, when demand increases avoid watering your lawns. Most brown lawns will recover.
- Plant sun-loving or drought resistant plants (for more information try the Royal Horticultural Society website at www.rhs.org.uk). A quick reference guide is included below:

Acanthus, Buddleia, Clematis, Dianthus, Eucalyptus, Foxglove, Geranium, Hebe, Iris, Juniper, Kniphofia, Lavender, Marigolds, Oenothera, Poppy, Quercus pedunculiflora, Rock Rose, Sedums, Tulip, Ulex, Vine, Wisteria, Yucca.

- Use mulches, like bark chips or gravel on the borders to help retain moisture and keep weeds down.

Meters

Customers on a metered supply can reduce their water and sewerage bills by eliminating the water they waste. Customers with a water meter tend to be more careful with their water and are usually financially better off. If you have low water consumption and your water bill is based on rateable value, it is possible that you could reduce your water and sewerage bill by opting to have your water supplied through a water meter. If you are interested you should contact our Customer Accounts Department on 01978 833200.

If you are already on a metered supply it is important to check your supply for leaks on a regular basis. Following the steps below to check will help to find if you have a leak on your supply:

- Locate your water meter.
- During a period of no water use in the home, check the meter index and pointer. If it is moving – you have a leak. If not, all is well.
- If the meter index is moving, close the internal stopvalve on your incoming supply (normally located in the kitchen). If the index stops, you have an internal leak; if not there is probably a leak on the underground supply pipe.
- Arrange for any necessary repairs (contact us if you need advice) and then check the meter again to be sure that all the repairs have been effective.