

How to save water – and money

Have a shower rather than a bath	An average 8-minute shower uses 18 litres less water than a bath.
Don't use sprinklers to water your garden	During hot weather most water from a sprinkler simply evaporates as it sits on the surface of grass or soil.
Don't leave taps running	A Middlesex university study found a running tap uses 6 Litres per minute, so brushing your teeth for 2 minutes twice a day wastes 24 litres per person. (8760 Litres per year)
Use a washing bowl for washing up	Washing a small number of dishes in a bowl of water (cleanest dishes first) uses 7 Litres, but a running tap for 2 minutes uses 12 Litres.
Make sure your dishwasher is full	If you have a dishwasher (average use 40 Litres per wash), putting it on half empty means you will use twice as much water, so using it once per day instead of once every second day wastes 7300 Litres per year.
Use leftover cooking water	Water plants with cooking water which has cooled both saves water and adds extra nutrient to the soil. NEVER USE SALTED WATER ON PLANTS
Fix any leaks	A dripping tap can waste up to 5500 Litres per year.
Fit low flow aerators to taps	A low flow aerator cost no more than £2 and save 3.6 Litres of water per minute
Fill up the kettle only as much as you need	Boiling more water than you need evaporates more water and also uses less electricity.
Fill a jug with water and keep in the fridge	Waiting for the tap to run cold wastes 6 Litres per minute. Filling a jug with water and storing it in the fridge saves 24 Litres of water if you have 6 drinks of water per day.

Pope Francis called for responsibility and care in the use of "sister water", pointing out that, still today, "access to safe, drinkable water is not within everybody's reach", that it is not a "commodity", and that we need to make haste "to give drink to the thirsty."