

# Saving water to save money

This leaflet explains how you can save money by reducing the amount of water you use in the home.

By reducing the amount of **hot water** you use, you'll reduce your bill for gas, electricity or oil. And if you're on a water meter you'll save money that way, too.

Around a quarter of the water we use is for showers and baths, and these account for about 10-20% of a typical household's energy bills.

Add to this the energy it takes to heat water for washing-up or doing the laundry and you get an idea of how much water heating contributes to your energy bills.

Typically, a shower uses less than half the amount of water as a bath, and therefore uses energy to heat this water – though of course it depends on the type of shower and how long your showers are.

## Here are three ways to reduce costs in the shower:

**1)** Use a timer to monitor how long you spend in the shower (these are often free from your water company). Cutting showering time to 4 minutes will save the average user £155 a year if it's an electric shower, or £45 if the water's heated by gas.



**2)** Consider replacing your showerhead with a water efficient one (costs start from £5). These will either aerate the water or reduce the flow



but shouldn't compromise on pressure. They can save £15 on your water bill (if metered) and £25 on your gas bill. (Be aware these showerheads are not usually compatible with electric showers, which are often already water efficient.)

**3)** You can also buy low flow or aerating taps, or you can fit an aerating device to your existing taps. These cost around £5 and can save £19 a year, according to the Energy Saving Trust.





## More ways to save on water heating

- 1) Only run washing machines and dishwashers when they're full. This will save you about £11 a year for each appliance. It's cheaper to do a full wash every two days, than a half wash every day. If the appliance has an economy setting this will use less water and electricity.
- 2) Wash clothes at 30 degrees wherever possible; most detergents work perfectly well at this temperature, and you'll save around £27 a year.
- 3) Only boil as much water as needed in the kettle.
- 4) If your home has an uninsulated hot water cylinder, you can save over £180 a year by insulating it. And make sure it is set to the correct temperature, and the timer is set appropriately. See our hot water cylinder webpage for more information ([www.cse.org.uk/advice/hot-water-cylinders](http://www.cse.org.uk/advice/hot-water-cylinders)).
- 5) Fitting a tap aerator can save £25 a year, according to the Energy Saving Trust. Aeration forces air into the water stream, which reduces the volume of water passing through but not the pressure.

## Where water is used in the home

The average person in the UK uses 145 litres of water a day (almost enough to fill one and a half baths). Here's where water is used in an average UK home. (Figures from Energy Saving Trust.)

1) Shower	25%
2) Toilet	22%
3) Other (cold taps)	22%
4) Washing machine	9%
5) Bath	8%
6) Bathroom hot tap	7%
7) Kitchen sink	4%
8) Car and garden	2%
9) Dishwasher	1%



Go to [savewatersavemoney.co.uk](http://savewatersavemoney.co.uk) to find out if your water company gives out free or discounted water saving devices such as water butts.



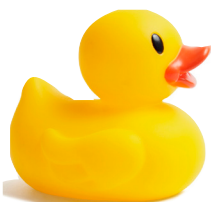


## Water-saving tips

Cutting your total water consumption is particularly important if you pay for your water using a meter. A water meter reflects your actual usage and your bills will therefore be lower if you use less water.

### In the bathroom

- Turn off the tap while brushing your teeth, shaving, or washing.
- Use toilet-leak detection tablets to check that water isn't leaking from the cistern into the bowl. You can also just use food colouring or ink: add a few drops into the cistern to colour the water, wait 15 minutes (don't flush!) and if the water in the bowl has changed colour it means you need to adjust the stop-cock.
- Fix any dripping taps. Taps can drip a whole bathful of water every week!
- Nearly a quarter of the water you use comes from flushing the loo. If you don't have a dual flush toilet consider installing dual flush controls, or placing a water-saving bag (sometimes called a 'hippo') inside the cistern.



### In the kitchen

- Wash up in a bowl, not the sink.
- Wash fruit and veg in a bowl instead of under a running tap.
- Thinking of a new washing machine or dishwasher? While all new appliances use much less water (and energy) than old ones, some are better than others, so check the small print to find the most efficient model. On average, you'll save £53 a year by replacing an old appliance with a new B or C rated one
- Keep a bottle of tap water in the fridge. Waiting for the tap to run cold can waste more than 10L of tap water a day.



### In the garden

- Hosepipes use a lot of water. So get a water-saving trigger for your hosepipe or use a watering can instead.
- Fit a water butt to collect rain water. Many plants prefer rainwater to tap water, and some water companies can provide water butts quite cheaply, from around £20.
- When washing your car use a bucket and a sponge.
- Watering your plants in the morning or evening and using mulch around them will reduce evaporation.





## Water meters

You may save money by going on a water meter, because it'll mean that you pay only for the water you actually use, rather than paying a fixed amount.

The water meter calculator on this page could help you work out how much your household would save by having a water meter fitted:

[www.ccw.org.uk/water-meter-calculator](http://www.ccw.org.uk/water-meter-calculator)

Most water companies operate a 2-year trial period during which you can switch back to unmetered billing if you prefer. If a water meter can't be fitted, your bill may be reduced based on an 'assessed charge' of your household situation.



**Installing a water meter is usually free in England and Wales.**

## Social tariffs

Many water companies have special tariffs for customers struggling to pay their bills. You should contact your water company about these tariffs if:

- **Your household receives benefits or is on a low income.**
- **You have a large family.**
- **Someone in the house has a medical condition that requires more water.**
- **You are in debt to your water company.**

Your water company may also hold a list of households who would be particularly affected if their water supply is disrupted. This list is usually called the Priority Services Register. If you think you would need extra support in case your water is cut off, give them a call.



## Help with bills

If you live in the Wessex Water area (Bristol, Somerset, Dorset, Wiltshire) and have a water debt or are struggling to afford your repayments please contact us as we can help you apply for support.

▶ This factsheet was updated in October 2025, using information, including energy prices, current at that time ◀

To go to our webpage on saving water to save money, scan the QR code or click the button.



**Go to webpage**



We're a charity (298740) supporting people and organisations across the UK to tackle the climate emergency and end the suffering caused by cold homes.

St James Court, Bristol BS1 3LH  
[cse.org.uk](http://cse.org.uk)

We offer free advice on domestic energy use to people in central southern and southwest England.

### Contact us:

**0800 082 2234**  
[home.energy@cse.org.uk](mailto:home.energy@cse.org.uk)

See all our energy advice pages at [www.cse.org.uk/advice](http://www.cse.org.uk/advice)