

Essential Guide: Water

How to save money on your water bills





Easy changes to use less water

Simple steps that reduce bills and cut carbon

Saving water in the home is a crucial part of the drive to reduce household bills while also helping to protect the planet.

Smarter water management means cutting energy used in treatment, pumping and delivering the increasingly precious resource, that will reduce carbon emissions and help our overstressed world at the same time. Roughly half of UK water consumption is in the home and we're now using almost 50 per cent more water than 25 years ago, but this level of consumption is not sustainable in the long-term. We each use around 150 litres of water a day in our homes, with the average family using 500 litres a day, a figure growing every year by 1 per cent since 1930. By comparison,

people in the US use 575 litres a day, while in Mozambique it's just 4 litres.

“We each use around 150 litres of water a day in our homes.”

“Leaving the tap running while brushing teeth for 54 seconds wastes up to 12 litres of water”



A study by Waterwise shows how we use water every day in the home:

- Toilet flushing **30%**
- Personal washing - baths and taps **21%**
- Personal washing - showers **12%**
- Clothes washing **13%**
- Washing up **8%**
- Outdoor **7%**
- Other **5%**
- Drinking **4%**.

Your water bill and how it's calculated

Water companies calculate your domestic water bills in one of two ways:

1. **Unmetered:** you pay a set amount for your domestic water and sewage service, regardless of how much you use. This is based on the rateable value (RV) of your home.
2. **Metered:** your domestic water readings are taken from a water meter and you pay for the units of water you use.

What's the difference between water charges and sewage charges?

There are two parts to your water bill:

1. **Water charges** are for the fresh water that comes out of your taps.
2. **Sewerage charges** are for the water you use that goes back into the

- 1 Roughly half of UK water consumption is in the home.
- 2 The average UK family using 500 litres a day.
- 3 Did you know? Having a water meter can mean a saving of £50-100 a year.



1

Did you know? Leaky loos are wasting 400 million litres of water a day in the UK.

2

People spend an average of 7.5 minutes in the shower, using up to 90 litres of water!

3

Main water use is in the bathroom, around 68 per cent of the total, or 96 litres a day per person.

system as waste to be treated – assumed to be about 95%.

This is also known as foul or grey water.

Is it better to be on a water meter or water rates?

With a water meter, you pay for the amount of water you use and if you don't have one installed then you are charged a fixed price, based on the rateable value of your home, no matter how much or little you use.

Having a water meter can mean a saving of £50-100 a year and you might save money if you live by yourself or just a couple, even a small family in a high rateable value home. For larger families, it might make financial sense to have a water meter as consumption is more than likely going to be quite high.

“With a water meter, you pay for the amount of water you use and if you don't have one installed then you are charged a fixed price.”

If you find your bills rise after fitting a meter, you can switch back to unmetered billing but make sure you ask your water company for this change the first year.

If you cannot get a meter, you can ask whether an “assessed charge” would cost you less.

Is it better to have a water storage tank or a combi boiler

A combi boiler is more efficient a conventional system that has water storage tanks and you don't need to find cupboard and loft space for the tanks.

Combi boilers work best with a relatively small demand so there's a compromise if you want to use a lot of hot water from different outlets at the same time. The boiler fires up when you turn on the tap or shower so it's very efficient. You use less water and energy, and there's no heat loss from storing the water and the system is less complicated to install.

Hot water recirculation pumps

In some larger homes with big water usage and conventional systems, it might worth considering a recirculating pump, which is timed to ensure that hot water is always available as close to the consumption point as possible. This can reduce water wasted by running a tap or shower and waiting for the temperature to be right.

Switching to eco products versus performance

You don't have to compromise on quality or performance if you choose water products that help to reduce water use.

Quality brands provide excellent

performance durability and superb design, even if you live in an area with low water pressure.

Is it worth installing a water softener?

There are around 15 million homes in the UK with hard water and an average family will use water containing about 70kg of hard materials like chalk and lime annually, according to British Water.

Most of us have had the experience of seeing the effects on our appliances, like kettles but this scale material can damage central heating systems with big repair bills.

While water softeners are quite expensive they should improve the efficiency of hot-water and heating systems, bearing in mind that just 1.6mm of scale could mean your heating system efficiency is reduced by 12%.

You should also have longer use and better performance from appliances like washing machines, dishwashers and kettles.

Easy DIY tips/products to use less water

The main water use is in the bathroom, around 68 per cent of the total, or 96 litres a day per person. The government has set a target for reduction in consumption per person of 16% with each one of us using 118 litres daily.

We can make sure our toilets are in tip top condition, checking for leaks and making sure the dual-

flush cisterns work properly. Leaky loos are wasting 400 million litres of water a day.

In the bathroom, people spend an average of 7.5 minutes in the shower – and that could use up to 90 litres of water. Some also leave the tap running while brushing their teeth for an average of 54 seconds, which would waste as much as 12 litres of water.

Eco taps

We can avoid taking baths where possible and fit eco taps, that reduce water usage by up to 60 per cent, with no loss of effectiveness and quality. For example, the

hansgrohe range features world-leading performance and quality with stunning design, backed by five-year warranties. hansgrohe prides itself on innovation with its taps featuring AirPower technology which saves precious water with no loss of performance and the company's ComfortZone solution ensures you choose the right product.

hansgrohe Coolstart technology reduces energy consumption through efficient cold water-only positions for its taps, unlike many other brands while its trendsetting EcoStart solution uses up to 60% less water than conventional products.

The extensive range from Grohe has all the hallmarks of superb design and quality manufacturing which ensures that every product is built with care, style and made to last a lifetime.

Grohe is a market leader with a





“Simply switching you hand shower to an eco-version can reduce you water usage by up to 60%!”

focus on continual development and innovation. Its products feature StarLight technology, a unique plating process regarded as one of the finest finishes available. This ensures your taps look great for decades. Grohe's SilkMove provides gradual and precise control of temperature and flow while the company's EcoJoy technology delivers water and energy savings with no compromise on quality.

Boiling water taps provide you with better tasting, pure water and the Grohe Red system ensure you have the great taste of filtered water combined with a titanium mini-boiler for child-safe, kettle hot water whenever you need it for hot drinks and cooking. The water goes through a unique five-stage filtration process and the easy-fit filter lasts for up to 12 months.

Tap aerators

Try tap aerators. A tap aerator is a small device that can be fitted to most taps and can reduce the flow of water. Costing as little as £5, an aerator can save £35 a year on your

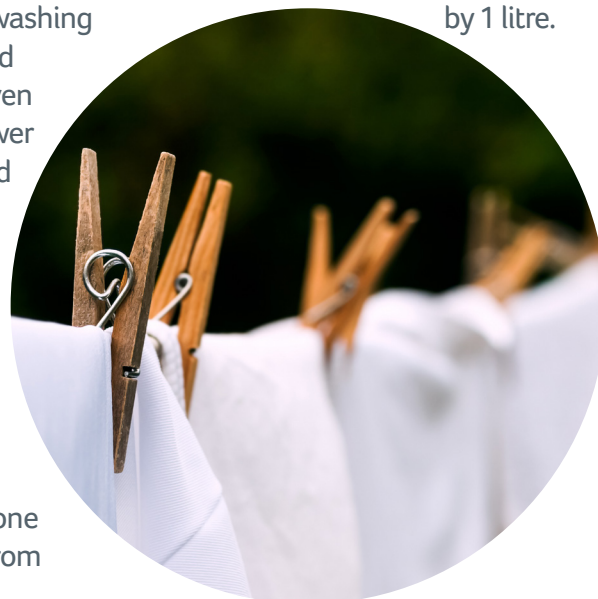
metered water bill, and help reduce energy costs too. Instead of baths, we can take showers and be sure to install eco shower heads, which cut water consumption by 50%, with no loss of quality. Water-saving showers help reduce your water and energy bills with no loss of pressure – ensuring an excellent showering experience every time.

When showering, we can experiment with putting on our favourite 4-minute song and try to finish before the song ends. And save even more by turning the water off in between washing our body, shampooing and conditioning. We could even place a bucket in the shower to collect excess water and use that to flush the toilet.

Smart toilets

Smart Toilets are at the forefront of the smart home revolution. They provide complete control through smartphone and the remote control, from

the spray time, type, position through to temperature. Perfect for hygiene and dignity, smart toilets are a perfect choice for homes. And it's definitely worth placing a displacement bag in your cistern. The award-winning Save-a-Flush is a brilliant and simple way to save thousands of litres of water a year. This water-displacement device is very easy to fit and needs no maintenance. Once installed the water displacement bag will reduce the amount of water used per flush by 1 litre.



Smart kitchen taps

Smart taps make any kitchen fully connected and they help protect the environment. The UK consumes around 2.8 billion litres of bottled water each year, installing a smart filtered water tap can reduce a home's CO₂ emissions by 61%. Smart taps from Grohe produce the perfect tasting water, as the system can be adapted to the hardness of your water supply.

The Grohe Blue kitchen mixer tap adds a touch of magic, providing pure filtered still or sparkling water whenever it's needed.

It helps to reduce CO₂ emissions by 61% when compared to bottled water. Research also suggests that drinking a bottle of water has the same impact on the environment as driving a car for one kilometre.

Using Bluetooth 4.0 technology Grohe Blue can be controlled on smartphone via the Grohe Ondus App, tracking water intake, with the facility to re-order filters at a touch of a button.

Washing clothes

In our clothes washing routines,

“Simply popping a displacement bag into your toilet cistern will reduce the amount of water used by 1 litre per flush”

we can always make we have a full load in the washing machine. And people massively misjudge how much water their washing machines consume, according to a survey by Water Regulation Advisory Scheme (WRAS). Over 80% assumed that 18 litres per load was used on average but in fact around 50 litres per wash is the norm, with older machines using even more water.

If you have a dishwasher, then make sure that is full before you start the cycle. If you prefer to wash the dishes by hand, then remember to use a bowl rather than just washing and rinsing under a full flowing tap.

Other top water-saving tips:

Keep a jug next to the kitchen tap to collect any water that you run when waiting for the tap to heat up and use it to water houseplants or garden. Collect water from cooking to water plants when cooled.

When refreshing a pet's water bowl, use the old water on house plants rather than pouring it down the drain.

Avoid shaving with the shower or tap running – use a small bowl of water instead.

Research suggests that our hair thrives when we don't wash it so much so we can wash it less and try dry shampoo as well.

Do you still have questions about how to save money on your water bills swimming around your head?

Get in contact with your Carbon Mentor

