



Dŵr Cymru
Welsh Water



'DIY' water audit for homes

Using water wisely

Our role at Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water is to provide safe and reliable drinking water to all our customers, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year – whilst ensuring our water abstractions and other water supply activities do not damage the environment.

During the hot summer of 2006 we were able to maintain water supplies to all our customers without a hosepipe ban or any other restriction on water usage - even though we saw the demand for water in some areas increase by up to 40% during peak times in July – mainly as a result of garden watering. We intend to do the same in future years, whatever the weather – after all this is our job.

However we know that you would want us to make sure that we don't take any more water from the environment than we need to. We are firmly committed to water conservation and water efficiency and advise all our customers to use water wisely wherever possible.

This leaflet shows you how you can use water more wisely in your home and garden. It is surprising how, with just a little more thought, we can all reduce the amount of water we use doing everyday tasks.

If you spot a leak, please call FREEPHONE 0800 281 432

How much water do we use?

With today's modern lifestyles we are using more water. We take more baths and showers, and more households have washing machines and dishwashers. In the mid 1970s each person used, on average, 110 litres of water every day. Today, that figure has risen to over 150 litres a day.

How much water do appliances use?

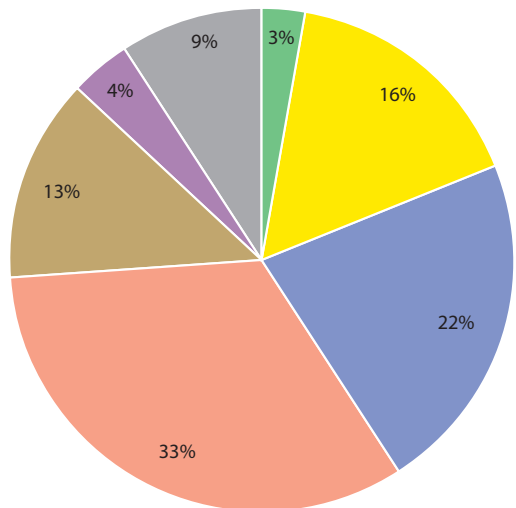
On average

Item	Approx amount of water used	(cubic metres)
Sprinkler	1000 litres per hour	1.000
Garden hose	500 litres per hour	0.500
Power shower	90 litres	0.090
Bath	80 litres	0.080
Shower	35 litres	0.035
Dishwasher	35 litres	0.035
Toilet (modern cistern)	9 litres each flush	0.009
Toilet (new cistern)	6 litres each flush	0.006

So, where do we use this?

In a typical home

- 33% flushing the toilet
- 22% using the washing machine and dishwasher
- 16% using the kitchen sink
- 13% taking a bath
- 9% using the handbasin
- 4% taking a shower
- 3% using the outside tap



How can you be water wise?



Water wise in the kitchen

- A washing machine uses up to 80 litres of water per cycle, wait until you have a full load before using it, or use the half load button - the same goes for the dishwasher. If you need to purchase a new appliance, check to see how 'water efficient' it is before you buy it.
- Use a washing up bowl when washing up, don't rinse dishes under a running tap.
- Rinse vegetables in a bowl of water, not under a running tap.



Water wise in the bathroom

- Over a third of the water we supply to you goes down the toilet – so avoid flushing it unnecessarily. Dispose of tissues, cotton wool and other such waste in the bin rather than the toilet. When installing or replacing toilets, opt for dual flush or low flush cisterns.
- Take a shower not a bath – but remember a power shower can use twice as much water as a bath.
- Turn off the tap when brushing your teeth.



Putting a water saving device, such as a hippo bag, in toilet cisterns may help to reduce the amount of water used when you flush your toilet. Please call us on **0800 052 0130** if you would like one, or you can request one from our website - www.dwrcymru.com/waterefficiency



Water wise in the garden

- Don't use a garden sprinkler to water your garden – use a watering can or handheld device instead. A sprinkler uses 1 cubic metre of water (1,000 litres) every hour – that's what a typical family would use inside their house in two days.
- Use a water butt to collect the rainwater from your roof rather than waste treated drinking water on your garden.
- Consider planting 'drought' tolerant plants like succulents such as sedums, lavender and geraniums in your garden and line the sides of terracotta pots and hanging baskets with polythene to reduce evaporation.

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Leakage

Over the last ten years we have reduced leakage by nearly half and our performance is in line with the rest of the UK water industry. We repair on average 50 bursts and leaks every day on our network and as part of our ongoing commitment to reducing leakage, if you have a leak on your supply pipe we may be able to help you locate and repair it. Please call us on **0800 281 432** for further information.

How you can help reduce leakage

Leaking supply pipes

Check your drive, paths and garden for any unusual wet

patches – these can be an indication that you have a leak on your supply pipe. If you have a water meter, turn off all your taps and water using appliances and then check to see if your meter is moving. If the meter does move it could also indicate that you have a leak. If you would like information about having a water meter please call us on **0800 052 0145**.

Dripping taps

A dripping tap can waste up to 30 litres of water each day. Replace washers on both inside and outside taps as soon as you spot the first drip.

Overflows

Check all overflows to ensure they are not running unnecessarily.

Frost protection

Make sure that all your pipework and water tanks, both inside and outside your home are adequately lagged. Leakage levels increase significantly following freezing weather. If you would like a copy of our leaflet 'Don't crack up – wrap up' please call us on **0800 052 130**.

For more tips and information about how you can be water wise around your home and garden log onto our website www.dwrcymru.com

Water use calculator – how much do you use?

Use the table below to work out your water use

Water use calculator – how much do you use?

Activity	Average amount of water used (litres)		Number of times each day		Daily total
Bath	80	X		=	
Power shower (with a pump to increase the pressure)	90	X		=	
Ordinary shower	35	X		=	
Old cistern (if the toilet has a water saving device such' as a hippo bag please deduct 3 litres each time the toilet is flushed)	9	X		=	
New toilet cistern (with dual flush)	6	X		=	
Handwashing and cleaning your teeth without the tap running (per person per day)	6	X		=	
Handwashing and cleaning your teeth with the tap running (per person per day)	10	X		=	
Using a washing machine (full or not)	80	X		=	
Using a washing machine on a half load setting	60	X		=	
Using a washing machine which is a water efficient model	55	X		=	
Using a dishwasher	35	X		=	
Using a dishwasher on a half load setting	20	X		=	
Using a dishwasher which is a water efficient model	22	X		=	
Washing dishes by hand	6	X		=	
Cooking and drinking (per person and per day)	10	X		=	
Total for the household per day				=	
Number of people in the house				=	
Average use per person per day				=	

Please note – there are some “discretionary” seasonal uses which could dramatically increase you score

How does your usage compare to our average of 150 litres per person per day?

Remember - using a garden sprinkler for an hour can add on 1,000 litres