

"We use how much water?" Competition Guidelines

Instructions for Taking part:

1. Draw a poster highlighting how much water we use and the simple things we can all do to save water.
2. The competition is open to all KS2 aged pupils with a category for Special Needs.
3. Goody Bags for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place within P5, P6 and P7 age groups.
3. Posters can be drawn by hand or ICT.
4. **Take a clear picture of the entry and email to education@niwater.com.
Please include the pupils name, school and age group in the email**
5. Entries should reach NI Water by 5pm Friday 7th May 2021.
6. Winning entries will be notified of the results in May 2021.
7. Current guidelines permitting prizes will be distributed at an Award Ceremony at NI Waters Wastewater Heritage Centre, Duncrue Street, Belfast the week commencing 7th June 2021.
8. Winners will be required to participate in publicity surrounding the competition.
9. We may wish to reproduce the winning submissions for promotional materials or publicity purposes.

'We use how much water?'

Inspiration

Watch our saving water video for handy hints and tips on saving water at home and school - email anna.killen@niwater.com to access the link.

Background Information: Water, Water everywhere but can you drink it all

Water is something we all take for granted. We just turn on the tap and it appears but we don't often think of how much water we actually use.

Only around 1% of earth's water is fresh water suitable for us to drink and even then this must be collected and cleaned to make it safe for us to use. In Northern Ireland we are very lucky we just have to turn on the tap to use clean, safe water and we often use a lot more than we think.

We don't measure how much we use each time and if we are asked how much water we use a day we often have to guess.

NI Water clean around 585 million litres of water every day and we each use approximately 150 litres a day but much of this is wasted. Climate change, global warming and increased populations have all put pressure on our water supplies so it is important that we work together to reduce the amount of water we waste to ensure a safe supply for the future.

Top tips for saving water

Bathroom

- Toilet flushing is very important and is one of the biggest uses of water. A larger handle flush cistern can use up to 9 litres to flush. Putting a Save a Flush Bag in these cisterns can save as much as 2 litres per flush.
- A smaller button flush cistern uses 6 litres per flush for the large button and 3 litres per flush for the small button. Always make sure you push the right button!
- Do you have a leaky loo? A leaky loo isn't always easy to spot but it can waste up to 400 litres per day!! To find out if your loo is leaking contact NI Water for your free leaky loo strip.
- Fix those drips- a dripping tap can waste approximately 15 litres of water per day - that's 5,500 litres per year or enough to fill up 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ fire engines

- Have a short shower instead of a bath- A bath uses an average of 80 litres compared to a 35 litres for a 5 minute shower.
- Why not take our 4 minute shower challenge and reduce your water use even further, sing your favourite song or contact NI Water for your free 4 minute shower timer.
- Reducing your shower time by just 2 minutes can save around 100 litres of water a week, that's enough for 40 thirst quenching glasses of water.
- Do you remember to turn the tap off while brushing your teeth? Leaving the tap running while your brushing wastes 6 litres per minute so leaving it running for 2 minutes wastes 12 litres = 24 litres per day, 168 litres per week or 8736 per year.

Kitchen

- A washing machine uses approximately 60 litres of water so remember to fully load it. Did you know putting a full load in the washing machine instead of 2 half loads can save 80 litres of water?
- Fully load the dishwasher: A dishwasher uses about 40 litres of water and remember no need to rinse before putting into the dishwasher simply scrape any leftover into the food bin.
- Tap water is one of the healthiest refreshing drinks and it is important we keep well hydrated instead of letting the tap run to get cold water keep a jug of water in the fridge. Running the tap to get cold water can waste 3 litres of water each time.

In the garden

- Using a hose for 15 minutes uses approximately 135 litres of water so when watering the plants use a watering can instead.
- Fill up your watering can using rain water collected in a waterbutt you could even use this water to wash the car.
- Power hoses can use as much as 500 litres of water in just 15 minutes that's enough water for a family of 4 for a full day! So wash the car with a bucket and sponge not a hose