

IN THE GARDEN ACTION

- Use a watering can instead of a hose
- Collect rainwater in water butts. Use the water to wash windows or water plants
- Recycle washing up water onto your plants
- Use a trigger nozzle on the hose
- Water in early morning or evening to reduce evaporation
- Add water retaining crystals to soil to keep in moisture
- Mulch plants using bark chips or gravel to retain water in the soil
- Place a planter under hanging baskets to catch the drips
- Use drought resistant plants
- Water grass less. Overwatering grass causes the roots to grow close to the surface making the grass weaker and less drought resistant

It is useful for tenants or householders to check where the stop valve is located in the property, so that if a pipe bursts, the water flow can easily be switched off.

By taking on board some of the above points as 'good habits' we can introduce significant water saving measures.



FACT

- hosepipes use 135 litres/15 mins
- 85,000 litres rainwater falls on the roof of average NI home/year
- sprinklers use 1000 litres/hour



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Northern Ireland Water
PO Box 1026
Belfast BT1 9DJ

email: waterline@niwater.com

www.niwater.com

Waterline 03457 440088

 @niwnews

 www.facebook.com/niwater

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How Water Wise Are You?



Why save water?

In Northern Ireland we receive large levels of rainfall; so many people think we don't need to save water but...

- Each person in Northern Ireland uses on average 155 litres of water everyday.
- Our use of water has been growing by 1% every year since the 1930's.
- With climate change and global warming we don't know how this will affect our future rainfall, so the earlier we learn to conserve water the better it will be for our future.
- The cleaning of water is an expensive business, using large amounts of energy and chemicals to ensure our water is safe to drink. It is therefore important not to waste it. By conserving water we can reduce our CO2 emissions and carbon footprint.
- NI Water are committed to water conservation. We continue to reduce leakage in our supply network and provide our customers with advice on how to use water wisely...

Water saving tips for the home and garden

BATHROOMS

Washing ACTION

- Use a shower instead of a bath
- Take shorter showers
- Fit an aeration shower head

FACT

- baths use 80 litres
- standard showers use 35 litres/5 mins
- power showers use 90 litres/5 mins

Flushing the Toilet

ACTION

- Chose a low flush model with dual flush system
- Check that the overflow is not running
- Only flush the toilet when needed
- Check bowl water is not running between flushes
- In older cisterns (9litres plus) place a HIPPO bag to reduce water use



FACT

- low flush toilets use 6 litres/flush
- older cisterns use 9 litres/flush

Hand Basin

ACTION

- Turn off the taps tightly when not in use
- Turn off the tap whilst brushing your teeth
- Fit an aerator to your taps
- Fix dripping taps
- Turn off the taps whilst shaving

FACT

- dripping tap wastes 30 litres/day
- running taps waste 6 litres/min

FACT

- dripping tap wastes at least 5,500 litres/year
- running taps uses 6 litres/min

THE KITCHEN

Kitchen Sink

ACTION

- Turn off the taps tightly when not in use
- Only fill kettle to the amount needed
- Fix dripping taps
- Use a washing up bowl to rinse and peel vegetables or to wash dishes, reuse water in the garden
- Keep a jug of tap water in the fridge for a cold drink



Machines

ACTION

- Fully load machines before use
- Use half load / economy setting to save water, energy and carbon emissions
- Don't rinse china before filling up a dishwasher
- Check machine labels to find energy/water efficient models

FACT

- dishwashers use 20 litres/cycle
- washing machines use 70 litres/cycle

WASHING THE CAR

ACTION

- Wash your car with a bucket and sponge

FACT

- hosepipes use 135 litres/15mins

