

## Water Conservation

### Water is precious

Millions of litres of water are wasted every day in this country. Because we use water in so many ways throughout the day, we take it for granted and probably never stop to think just how much water we are consuming ... and how much we are wasting!

By taking care about how much water we use, we can help protect the environment and save money.

### How we use water at home

On average, each person in Britain uses about 142 litres of water a day - enough to fill two baths! We use water for washing ourselves, flushing the toilet, cleaning dishes, washing clothes, drinking and cooking.

But your great grandparents managed with only about 18 litres. And the average person in the developing world uses 10 litres of water a day (about one toilet flush). So why are we using so much water?

Here are some typical examples of how much water we each use today:

	Litres
one (modern) toilet flush	6
one bath	90
one shower	30
washing hands and face	9
brushing teeth	1
running hosepipe/sprinkler for one hour	900
watering can	8
one washing machine load	50
one dishwasher load	23
one sink bowl	6
one bucket	8
drinking and cooking per person	6

## Saving water at home

We can save water by:

- Repairing dripping taps
- Taking a shower instead of a bath
- Not leaving the tap running when you brush your teeth
- Using a 'hog bag' in your cistern
- Only using dishwashers and washing machines when full
- Collecting rainwater in a water butt to water the garden
- Don't leave the garden hose on longer than necessary

Nearly two-thirds of water in this country is used in factories, hospitals and agriculture. The amount of water used by schools, offices and homes is small in comparison.

Industries and farming use water in many ways. Here are some examples:

<b>Agriculture</b>	<b>Irrigation</b>
	Animal welfare
<b>Food production</b>	Food container cleaning
	Food processing and preparation
<b>Heating/cooling</b>	Steam production
	Cooling towers
<b>Finishing</b>	Cleaning in preparations for painting and planting
<b>Leisure</b>	Swimming pools, water slides, saunas

How do you think water is used in factories where these products are manufactured?

	<b>Litres of water used</b>
One tonne of steel	50,000
One car	30,000
One tonne of paper	26,000
One pint of beer	7
100gm bar of chocolate	1

Why do you think these local industries use so many millions of litres of water?

	<b>Litres of water used</b>
Oil refinery	15,000
Airports	106
Theatres and Seafront areas	110
Hospitals	200

## Conserving water in industry

Because industry uses so much water, it is important that they use water wisely. Local industries are playing their part by installing push taps, urinal controls and fitting modern low use cisterns.

### How does South West Water save water?

Large amounts of waste are lost through old and leaking pipes so at South West Water we are continually monitoring for leaks and repairing them as soon as we can.

We encourage customers to install water meters which can often save them money and make people more careful about how they use water.

A water meter measures how much water is going into your house, so you only pay for the water you use - much cheaper for people who live alone.

All new properties are now fitted with a water meter.

