

# Using water wisely *in the home*



## Around the house

- ◆ Fix dripping taps, a dripping tap at one drip per second will waste over 5,500 litres of water per year - enough water to supply one person for 37 days! Leaking hot water taps waste energy as well as water.
- ◆ Replace worn tap washers, a quick and cheap way of saving water.
- ◆ Make sure water pipes and external taps are lagged in time for the cold winter weather. Burst water pipes and leaks can cause serious damage as well as waste water.
- ◆ Use a bucket and sponge when washing your car. Rinse the shampoo off with a watering can instead of using a hose.
- ◆ Washing your car at the local automatic car wash saves you time and effort and they probably recycle the water they use too.
- ◆ Insulate hot water pipes to reduce the amount of water that must be run to get hot water (this will save energy too).

## In the kitchen

- ◆ When buying a dishwasher or a washing machine choose one that is energy efficient as this saves water and electricity. Machines with an 'A' rating sign are the most efficient.
- ◆ Wait until you have a full load before using the washing machine or dishwasher - half-load programmes still use around three quarters of the water and energy of a full load.
- ◆ Try hand washing woollen items, it does just as good a job as machine washing and saves several litres of water.
- ◆ Use the minimum amount of water needed to boil water in saucepans and kettles. You'll save energy as well as water.
- ◆ Avoid rinsing dishes in the sink before loading them into the dishwasher. Scrape them clean instead.

*Use water wisely*

**The average family uses 71 litres of water a day just on laundry**

- ◆ Don't wash vegetables and fruit under a running tap. Fill a bowl with water and use that.
- ◆ Use the leftover water from washing vegetables to water plants.
- ◆ Always try to use the plug and don't let the tap run when you're washing your hands or washing up. Better still, use a washing up bowl in the sink.
- ◆ Keep a bottle or jug of water in the fridge, instead of leaving the tap running while it gets cool.



## In the bathroom

- Take a shower instead of a bath. A shower uses 2-3 times less water than a bath. This can save up to 400 litres of water per week. But remember - power showers can use more water than a bath in less than 5 minutes.
- If you do have a bath, you can save water and energy by ensuring it is not over full.
- Toilets are one of the largest users of water in the home. Toilets installed after 1993 have smaller 7.5 litre cisterns, which save water. If you have an old 9 litre cistern Jersey Water can provide Water Hippos to reduce the volume of water flushed.
- When you are installing a new bathroom, choose water efficient taps and dual flush cisterns.
- If you have a dual flush cistern already, use the shorter flush whenever possible.
- Use plugs in washbasins when you have a wash, or are cleaning the bathroom, rather than leaving the tap running.

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**Avoid leaving the tap running when brushing your teeth, as this wastes between 5 and 9 litres of water a minute**

# Why use water wisely?

Water is becoming more precious than ever. Increases in population, changing lifestyles, pollution and shifts in weather patterns all place increasing demands on the fresh water that we have at our disposal. In Jersey, an Island with limited underground reserves of water and no links to external water networks, we rely on the collection of surface water for most of the mains water supplied.

You too can do your bit to reduce the amount of water that is wasted, whether it is in the home, the garden, at work or at school - many of the changes in routine are small and will hardly be noticed. There are lots of simple things we can all do, from turning off the tap whilst brushing your teeth to making sure you run washing machines and dishwashers with a full load.

Together they add up to significant overall savings.

For more water saving tips, please visit our website.



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