



Water Supply and Demand

Activity 1

These figures show some of the ways in which water is used in an average home in the Thames Water region.

Item	How much water it uses (litres)	Number of times a week it is used (average)
Bath	80	8
5 min Shower <i>(not a power shower)</i>	35	8
Toilet	9	89
Washing machine	95	5

You can find out how much water is used in the bath each week by multiplying the amount of water in the bath (80 litres) by the number of times it is used (8). Now work out how much water is used in showers, toilets and washing machines.

Add all the figures together. Now add on another 350 litres which are used every week in wash basins and sinks, and for cooking.

How much water does the average household use each week?

Water is a precious resource, one which we all need to look after to make sure there is enough for everyone now, and in the future. We can all do small things to help conserve our water supplies. **Can you think of ways we can all save water in the home and in the garden?**

Activity 2

Were you surprised to learn how much water we use each week? Try keeping a diary to note how much water you use.

From the information you have found out already, you should be able to estimate how much water your family uses each week. Multiply that by 52 to find out how much you use in a year. (You can take away the number of weeks you were away from home on holiday, if you like!).

How much did all this water cost? The average household bill for water supply in the Thames Water region for 2005/6 was £246 (which is for both clean water and sewage treatment). Divide the bill by the number of litres used.

- How much does a litre of water cost?
- How much does a litre of milk, lemonade or petrol cost?
- What about a litre of bottled water?

Bottled water on average is 1,000 times more expensive than tap water.