



Information card 7

Top tips and facts

Top tips

For the whole school

- Make posters to inform the rest of the school about how to save water
- Set up a system of environmental champions who can check the school for water wastage.

Classroom

- Make sure you have plugs for the sinks and encourage staff and students to use them
- Report any dripping taps to your caretaker or site manager. Repairing a dripping tap could save as much as 60 litres/week. In most instances all that will be required is to replace the tap's washer.
- A running tap can use approximately 6 litres of water per minute. Put up 'turn off tap' stickers and posters to remind people to turn the taps off when they are not being used.

Toilets and showers

- Ask your caretaker or site manager to install Save-a-flush in your toilets. Toilet cisterns installed in the last ten years should be water efficient and will not need a cistern device.
- Make sure you turn off the taps. Put up 'turn off tap' stickers and posters.
- Report any dripping taps to your caretaker or site manager. Repairing a dripping tap could save as much as 60 litres/week. In more instances all that will be required is to replace the tap's washer.
- Have a refreshing shower instead of a bath - this can save over 150 litres of water per week. But be careful - a power shower can use more water than a bath!
- A running tap can use approximately 6 litres of water per minute. Put up 'turn off tap' stickers and posters to remind people to turn the taps off when they are not being used.

Canteen

- Don't leave the tap running to clean dishes or vegetables. Use a bowl of water instead.
- Wait for a full load before using the dishwasher. A full load uses less water than two half-loads.
- When choosing a new dishwasher, select one that is energy efficient, as it will save water and electricity. Machines with a triple 'A' rating are most economical.

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- Once a week is all the watering your lawn needs – even in the summer. Over-watering can weaken your lawn by encouraging roots to seek the surface.
- Water your garden in the early morning or late evening, to minimise evaporation from the soil.
- Collect rainwater for your plants in a water butt. See www.thames.savewater.co.uk for prices and more information on water butts.
- Regularly weed your garden to ensure that watering helps your plants and not the weeds. Weeds take up valuable nutrients as well as water.
- Use mulch to retain moisture and suppress weeds. Mulches such as woodchips, bark and gravel help save water and time spent weeding.
- Use large containers lined with plastic and topped with mulch for window boxes, roof gardens and hanging baskets. They don't dry out quickly and are low maintenance.



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Top tips and facts

Facts and figures

Water use in the UK

- Our individual water use has increased by around 30 % since 1970
- A running tap can use approximately 6 litres of water per minute
- Repairing a dripping tap could save as much as 60 litres a week
- Every person in the Thames Water supply area uses on average 163 litres per day
- On average, each person visits the toilet 1460 times a year - about four times a day
- Approximately two-thirds of the water used in schools is flushed down the toilet
- Fitting a Save-a-flush bag in your toilet cistern can save 1 litre per flush
- Climate change is expected reduce the amount of water available by 5 % over the next 25 years

World facts

- In developing countries people use on average 20 litres of water a day per person
- In 2007 the South East of England experienced the wettest May-July since records began
- Worldwide almost 1 billion people live without clean water
Every 15 seconds a child dies from a water-related disease

Thames Water facts

- The Thames region is one of the driest and most densely populated areas of the UK
- Lifestyle changes and population growth is placing increasing pressure resources in the UK
- Thames Water supplies 8.5 million customers with water; rising to 9.6 million by 2034
The Thames region has the lowest amount of water available per person in the UK