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Eco Tips to help save water ….

You can save water at home through simple daily habits and efficient appliances reducing both your water bill and your environmental impact.

Daily Habits inside

- **Turn off taps when not in use**: Don't use running water while brushing your teeth, shaving, or washing your hands. This can save up to 200 gallons per month.
- When **washing vegetables** do it in a bowl of water instead of running water, this can save up to 50% of the water used.



- **Having a cuppa**. Boil only what you need. Only boil as much water as you need in a kettle. Jug kettles tend to be more efficient. Cover pans when boiling water to speed up the process and reduce heat wastage
- **Take shorter showers**: Limit showers to 4 minutes or less; use a timer or even better play a 4 minutes song such as Hey Mickey (Toni Basil), The Final Countdown (Europe), My Way (Frank Sinatra), or I wanna dance with somebody (Whitney Houston) chose your own songs. Singing in the shower, having fun and saving water, start to a great day.



- **Have a bucket in the bathroom**. Whilst you're waiting for the shower to get to your desired temperature collect the water in the bucket and water your garden with it.
- **Take fewer baths**: it's an obvious one, but baths use far more water than an average length shower. If you need a bath to help soothe sore muscles, maybe don't fill it right to the top.
- **Dishwashing –** a dishwasher is usually more water saving than washing by hand especially if used on the Eco Setting.
- **Using a washing machine efficiently**: Only run full loads and use the shortest cycle settings; front-loading washers are generally more water-efficient than top-loading models
- **Fix leaks promptly**: Even small leaks in taps or toilets can waste hundreds of gallons per month
- **If it's yellow let it mellow, if it's brown flush it down**
  This one's not for everyone, but it isn't necessary to flush every time we have a pee. Always flush after a number 2 though!

- Don’t flush non-biodegradable items such as cotton buds, cotton balls, nappies and sanitary items down the toilet. Only flush the 3P’s – pee, paper and poo to prevent sewer blockages, pollution and water waste.

Outdoors



- **Install a water butt** – this provides a free water source. Rain water is good for house plants as well as outdoor plants as there is no chlorine in it.
- **Plants**: water early in the morning or late in the evening to reduce evaporation. Use a watering can rather than the hose, only water the root of the plant. Check the weather forecast – no need to water if it’s going to rain!
- **Resist the urge to water your lawn in dry spells**. Lawns are resilient and will bounce back when it rains.



- **Mulching**…apply a mulch around your plants and on your flowerbeds to retain water, reduce evaporation and keep weeds at bay. Use compost, leaf mulch, bark, or similar materials



- **Plants…..** if you are buying new plants try to buy those that are drought-tolerant or those that are native to the UK that need less water. Plant the drought-resistant plants in the sunniest spots in your garden - they’ll need less watering and stay healthier in dry spells. Gerbera, Dianthus, Buddleia and Salvia





- Use **ground cover plants** to protect bare soil, which dries out quickly in the heat
- **Lawns….** Raise the mower blades to 2-3 inches off the ground to retain the soil and the moisture.
- **Boost moisture retention** by mixing water-retaining granules or absorbent compost into the soil when potting your pots.
- **Potting tips:** Group pots together to create shade and reduce water loss. Light-coloured pots stay cooler, and glazed or plastic ones retain moisture better than terracotta. Move your pots away from hot surfaces like patios during heatwaves to prevent plant roots from overheating.

These simple changes can significantly reduce our water usage and by saving water you are helping to save our planet.

Ideas from www.greenecofriend.co.uk, www.wwf.org.uk, www.waterwise.org.uk, www.energysavingtrust.org.uk, www.arocha.org.uk, www.seasonofcreation.org, www.southwestwater.co.uk