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Our world, your home - How to be water wise.

Your guide to greener, cleaner and cheaper habits.

Introduction

Welcome to the fourth of our six mini guides with money and energy saving advice. We can't survive without water, but this guide looks at how we can use less and cut our water bills.



How to be water wise

The average person uses 150 litres of water a day and heating water uses around 12% of a household's energy bill (if your home is gas-heated). Transporting and treating water is energy intensive and generates significant carbon emissions.

Climate change also increases the risk of droughts and water shortages, so it is important that we're not wasteful with this vital resource.



If you have a hot water cylinder set it to 60°C. This is hot enough to kill any harmful bacteria and higher temperatures are a waste of energy and increased the risk of scalding.



Swapping just one bath a week with a four-minute shower could save you up to £10 a year. Plus, shortening showers by one minute each day could save a typical household £65 a year on their energy bills!



According to the Energy Saving Trust, if a typical family replace their inefficient shower head with a water efficient one, they could save around £45 on their gas bills and around £25 on their water bills (if they have a water meter) each year. That's a total saving of around £70!



A dripping tap can waste 140 litres of water a week – that's almost enough to fill two baths, so make sure your taps are properly turned off. If you notice a leak, report this to our Repairs team [here](#).



Ten minutes of running water a day would waste 22,000 litres a year and cost at least £30. Using a bowl to wash up rather than a running tap can save you money on your bills if you have a water meter. A running tap wastes more than five litres of water a minute, so remember to turn off the tap while brushing your teeth and shaving too!



Let the dishwasher do the dirty work. Avoid pre-rinsing the dishes in hot water. Save water and energy by just scraping the dishes before they go in.



Your water provider can offer discounted or free water-saving devices! Contact your water supplier directly or visit their website to find out what water-saving measures they have on offer.



Installing a water butt can help to reduce water bills. Please contact us if you're thinking about installing a water butt as it may require alterations to your down pipe.



Remember to use a bucket rather than a hose when you wash the car. Hoses can use 15 times more water.



Bottled water has a carbon footprint 1,000 times higher than tap water! Use re-useable water bottles and coffee cups on the go – some shops offer a discount when you use re-useable cups or bottles too.



Get help if you're struggling to pay water bills



If you're having trouble paying your water bill and have fallen into debt, contact your water company to see how they can help. All companies have schemes such as repayment plans, discounts or even a cap on how much you pay.

If you're on a low combined income and/or receiving certain benefits, your water company should offer various social tariffs that can reduce your water bill, whether you have a meter or not. What's available varies from company to company. Call your provider to find out more or visit the [Energy Saving Trust](#) and [moneysavingexpert.com](#).

Additional information and support

Discover the comprehensive range of additional resources and support options available to help you navigate through the cost of living crisis.

Government support

Visit [Help for Households](#), the government scheme that offers information and support on the cost of living, energy and other household bills.

Talk to us or your local authority

Both Futures and your local authority can tell you about any financial support, additional benefits and government discount schemes to reduce your fuel bills. For more information on support related to cost of living, guidance of claiming appropriate benefits and money advice, visit our [Cost of living: you're not alone](#) page.

Our Tenancy Support team is here to support you, whatever your circumstances. Our friendly advisors can make sure you're getting all the support you're entitled to. Speak to our team on **0300 456 2531** or email enquiries@futureshg.co.uk.

Debt Advice

StepChange Debt Charity can offer free debt advice and budgeting support. Visit www.stepchange.org or call **0800 138 1111** for the debt advice helpline.

National Debtline also offer free debt advice and support, plus information for dealing with high gas and electricity bills. Visit www.nationaldebtline.org or call a **0808 808 4000**.





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www.futureshg.co.uk



enquiries@futureshg.co.uk

