

|  |   |  |
|--|---|--|
| <p>Tel :07528 493181<br/>         Info@strettonclimatecare.org.uk<br/> <a href="http://www.strettonclimatecare.org.uk">www.strettonclimatecare.org.uk</a><br/>         Charity No. 1159816</p> | <p>Energy Advice Drop In<br/>         The Wellbeing Centre<br/>         Church Stretton<br/>         Thursday's 10.00 – 12.00</p> |  |
|--|---|--|

INFORMATION SHEET No. 16 DATE OF ISSUE October 2023

Updated July 2025

## Water saving advice

2025 has been the driest Spring for 69 years, possibly for the last century and ground water levels in Shropshire sometimes get very low. In the summer of 2011 some households not on mains water supply experienced water shortages. Wells and bore holes ran dry, those relying on natural springs found their supply dwindling and these homes were having to bring in water from other sources. Indeed the situation was so dire for some that they closed up their homes and moved out through lack of drinking water - something we all take for granted at the turn of the tap.



*Our climate is changing.* Some parts of the country no longer get sufficient winter rain to keep reservoirs and ground water supplies topped up for the coming summer whilst other places see extreme rainfall and flooding. The River Severn is particularly vulnerable, with fluctuating water levels affecting both agriculture and flood defences. River levels fall and farmers who have in the past relied on bore holes or rivers to provide water for irrigating their fields are having to consider alternative, more drought resistant crops and creating their own mini reservoirs. This will undoubtedly influence some food prices. We are seeing water bills increasing and a much greater risk of wild fires.

*Below are some water saving facts and tips we could all do well to be aware of: -*

The average person in the U.K. uses up to 140 litres of water a day, much of which does not need to be of drinking quality:

- Toilet flushing 33%
- Personal water, baths and taps 24%
- Clothes washing 13%
- Showers 12%
- Washing up 7%
- Drinking 4%
- Other 7%

### Latest from Environment Agency:

**We need to reduce our water consumption to 100 litres per person per day. Roughly equal to 1 cubic metre per month. Concern expressed U.K. will face water shortages by 2045**

- New build properties can install an underground filtered rainwater storage tank—the water is suitable for using in your washing machine, toilet flush etc.

- A standard toilet flush uses up to 13 litres per flush! Dual flush cisterns only 6 litres for a full flush and 4 for a short one.

- If you have a pre 2001 cistern, consider fitting a “save a flush bag” available free from your water company

- Don't leave the tap running whilst brushing your teeth or washing your hands. A running tap uses 6 litres a minute

- Consider installing low flow shower heads and taps
- Stop those drips—a dripping tap can waste up to 5000 litres a year costing £18.00
- Washing up by hand typically uses 60 litres a session. A modern dish washer uses only 15 litres
- Shower rather than bath and limit the time. A bath can use over 100 litres, a shower less than a third though power showers can use more than a bath full in 5 minutes
- Reuse bath water to water the garden but don't store for long or use on fruit or vegetables
- If you must water the garden, do so in the morning or evening when evaporation is less
- Run washing machines and dish washers full. A half load can use more than half the water
- Keep a jug of water to cool in the fridge rather than run the tap to get it cold
- Save cold run off from the hot tap and reuse
- Wash fruit and vegetables in a bowl and then save the water for another use
- Only fill the kettle with the amount you need to boil. Saves electricity as well as water
- Garden sprinklers use up to 1000 litres an hour, a hose pipe 18 litres a minute

• Rainwater can be used for many tasks that do not require drinking quality water— car washing, garden watering, toilet flushing, window cleaning etc. It can be simply stored in water and the average house roof in the West Midlands can collect as as 60,000 litres a year. Did you know that if your down pipes discharge into a soak away rather than the public sewer you can reduction on your water rates?



up to  
butts  
much  
get a

Annual rainfall (in millimetres) x Roof surface area (in square metres) = Roof catchment capacity.

**Caution - Please Read this:**

*Our Advice Note has been carefully prepared and is, as far as we know, accurate at the date of publication. However, things change very fast in the world of technology and in government schemes. Sometimes parts of Advice Notes become outdated and may not offer best advice very soon after publication. We do our best to keep them up to date with the limited resources we have. Furthermore, our advice may not be appropriate for your particular circumstances. We advise that you get advice from a relevant expert before making changes. We may be able to offer further advice or make suggestions on who to contact if you get in touch with us. We are not technical experts but have many years of offering common sense advice and we recommend you should not rely on our Advice Note alone for making decisions. The national advice centre Energy Savings Trust is a good source of information.*

See <https://energysavingtrust.org.uk/>