



The scale of water consumption in the UK is fast becoming unsustainable – here's a look at how you can make some small changes to help put a stop to the wastage

water wise

The facts are frightening. If consumption of water continues

at the same rate, two-thirds of the world's population will live in areas of water stress by 2025 – according to findings of the second United Nations Water Development Report.

The UK has less available water per person than most other European countries: London is drier than Istanbul and the South East of England has less water per person than Sudan and Syria. So it's time to start thinking about how much water we're all wasting on a daily basis, and doing something about it. Here's ten ways to get you started:

1 Turn it off A running tap can waste around six litres of water per minute. If everyone in the UK turned off the tap while brushing their teeth, it would save 446 million litres of water – enough to supply the whole population of Leeds, Birmingham, Glasgow and Sheffield for one day.

2 Fix it A dripping tap can waste up to 15 litres of water a day, or almost 5,500 litres per year. Fitting

EACH PERSON IN THE UK USES 150 LITRES OF WATER PER DAY

a new washer is a cheap way of saving water and it only takes a few minutes.

3 Speed up Yes, showers are better than baths, but they can still use between nine and 45 litres of water per minute. So, keep yours short, especially if you have a power shower.

4 Install Put a hippo or other cistern displacement device in your water closet to reduce the volume of water in your flush by between one and three litres. You can obtain one free of charge from your water company, but you don't need one if you have a dual flush toilet.

5 Bin it Each unnecessary flush uses a cistern full of water, so don't flush away face wipes and cotton wool – throw them in the dustbin. If everyone in the UK stopped using their toilet as a bin, 27 million litres of water would be saved each week.

6 Fill up Restricting your use of your dishwasher and washing machine to full loads can save huge amounts of water.

7 Update Many of the latest washing machines and dishwashers are designed to be water efficient, so when it comes time to replace yours, look out for eco models.

If you're planning on doing up your bathroom, choose appliances which feature the BMA water efficiency label. The BMA as the lead trade association for manufacturers of bathroom products in the UK has developed the Water Efficient Product Labelling Scheme which raises awareness of bathroom products that when installed and used correctly, save water, therefore energy.

8 Recycle Wash fruit and vegetables in a bowl rather than under a running tap, and save the water that's left over to water your houseplants.

9 Ditch it Hosepipes use as much as 1,000 litres per minutes so use a watering can for your garden, and a bucket and sponge to wash your car.

10 Make the switch Consider fitting a water meter. It will make you aware of how much you consume.

Rob says... 'Reducing your water consumption is important for lightening our environmental burden as well as reducing the impact on our pockets – particularly if your water usage is metered, like mine.'