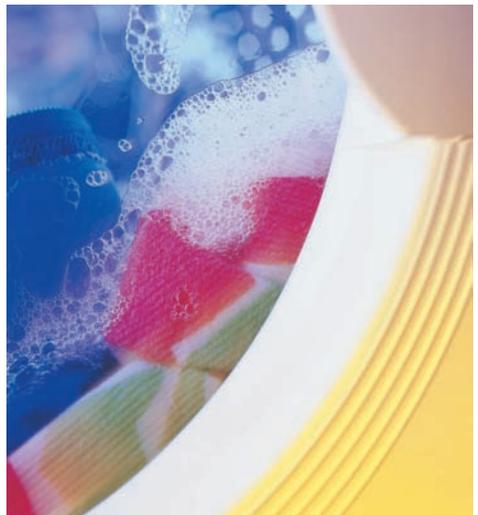
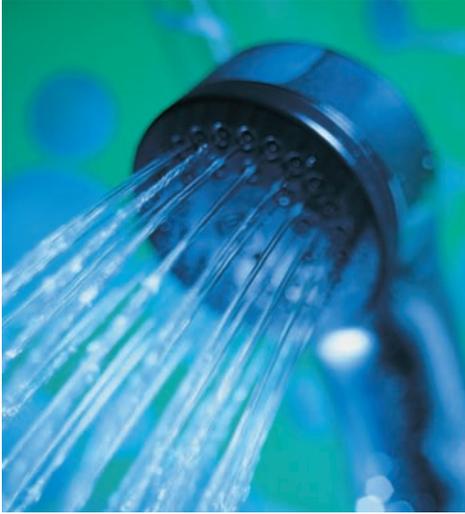


# Help the environment

Use water wisely in the home and garden



Small changes make a **big difference**

# Help the environment

## Use water wisely in the home and garden

Over the last **35 years** the amount of water each of us uses has almost doubled. At the same time, **our climate is changing** and we are experiencing long, dry spells with little rainfall. We have all been so used to the **rainfall in this country being regular** and abundant, that there has been a tendency to take it **for granted** that there would always be a plentiful supply.



This is no longer the case, however recent years have seen a change towards rain patterns similar to those of Mediterranean countries. The result is, that in an average year, there is now less water available per person in parts of the south and south east of England than there is in Ethiopia or the Sudan.

More than ever, water is now a valuable natural resource, and like all the earth's resources, it needs to be respected and used wisely. By learning to make the best use of water, we can ensure that the change in weather patterns does not deplete our water reserves unnecessarily or adversely affect our environment.

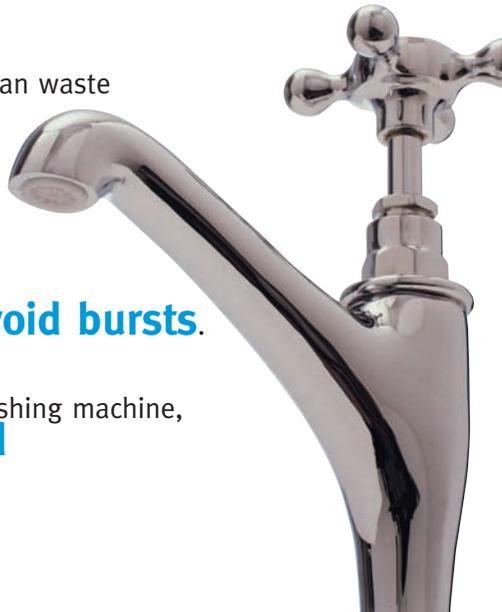
## A little goes a long way

There are so many ways in which we can all save water, they are almost too numerous to mention. Many are so simple you will wonder why we haven't all been doing them for years. If everyone followed just some of the hints and tips in this leaflet, it would make an enormous difference to the amount of water used every day.



## Top ten ways to **save water in the home**

- 1 Take a shower** instead of a bath.
- Only **fill kettles** with as much water as you need – it saves on your energy bills as well.
- 3 Don't leave the tap** running when you brush your teeth.
- 4** Make sure you have a **full load** each time you use the washing machine or dishwasher.
- 5** Use a **bucket and sponge** to wash the car, rather than a hose.
- 6** Fit a **Save-a-flush bag** to your toilet cistern – it can save one litre of water every time you flush.
- 7 Repair dripping taps** – they can waste up to a litre of water every hour.
- 8** Wash **vegetables in a bowl** of water, rather than a running tap.
- 9** Ensure pipes are lagged in winter to **avoid bursts**.
- 10** When buying a new dishwasher or washing machine, choose ones which are **water and energy efficient**.





# Top ten ways to save water in the garden

- 1** Use a **water butt** and rain diverter to collect rainwater for use in the garden.
- 2** Add **organic matter** in the form of manure or compost to your soil to retain moisture.
- 3** **Water early** in the morning or late evening to stop evaporation.
- 4** Let the **grass grow** longer in dry periods. It will stay greener.
- 5** **Spike your lawn** to help water soak down.
- 6** Apply a mulch to **reduce evaporation** from the soil.
- 7** **Weed regularly** to stop weeds competing with your plants for water.
- 8** Water directly **around the roots**.
- 9** Leave grass cuttings on the lawn **after mowing**.
- 10** **Try ice cubes** in your hanging baskets as a clever way of watering.



# Meters make sense

Water is the only utility which has not traditionally been metered. Yet we are all used to paying for our gas and electricity according to how much we use. We don't leave our lights or heating on when we don't need them, yet we routinely allow taps to drip and fill kettles to the brim when we are only making a single cup of tea. Installing a water meter helps us think about the amount of water we are using, which in turn can often mean you pay less. If you would like to switch to a metered supply or require more information, log onto [www.southeastwater.co.uk](http://www.southeastwater.co.uk)

## Plug those leaks!

**Don't pour money down the drain – check for leaks around the house!**

**Check all taps** in and around your property for drips.

Look under sinks and basins for any **signs of leaks** from pipes or joints.

Check the WC for **water continually running** inside the bowl.

Check outside **overflow pipes** for signs of running or dampness below the overflow.

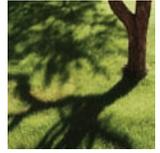
Listen for the **sound of running water** when none is being used.

Check all outside pipes and taps are **protected from frost**.

**Check tanks and pipes** in the loft and ensure they are insulated.



# Plant Directory



## Plants for a not so rainy day

These plants require little or no watering once established, and they are all widely available at garden centres.

### **Atriplex halimus** (tree purslane)

Semi-evergreen shrub 1.5m x 2m with silver grey leaves.

### **Callistemon speciosus** (bottle brush)

Narrow leaved evergreen shrub to 2.5m tall. Flowers in summer are deep scarlet cylindrical spikes edged with gold stamens.

### **Caryopteris x clandonensis** 'Heavenly Blue'

Small, deciduous shrub 1m x 1m. Leaves greyish and blue flowers late summer.

### **Ceanothus 'Puget Blue'** (Californian lilac)

A dense evergreen shrub 2m x 2m producing royal blue flowers from late spring to early summer.

### **Ceanothus thyrsoflorus repens** (creeping blue blossom)

Evergreen, forming a low mound 50cm x 1.5m with Cambridge blue flowers in early summer.

### **Cytisus x beanii** (broom)

Dwarf shrub 35cm. Golden pea flowers in May.

### **Cistus creticus** (sun rose)

Evergreen shrub to 1m. Flowers deep pink with a yellow centre, in summer.

### **Cistus x dansereau** 'Decumbens' (sun rose)

Evergreen shrub 60cm x 1.5m. Flowers in summer are large and white with crimson basal blotches.

### **Cistus 'Grayswood Pink'** (sun rose)

Evergreen shrub 1m. Pink flowers in summer.

### **Cistus x lusitanicus 'Decumbens'** (sun rose)

Evergreen shrub 60cm x 1.2m. Large white flower with crimson blotch, in summer.

### **Cistus 'Silver Pink'** (sun rose)

Evergreen shrub 80cm x 80cm, greyish green foliage and silver pink flowers in summer.

### **Convolvulus cneorum**

A dainty silver-leaved evergreen shrub 30cm with pale pink and white funnel shaped flowers in May.

### **Cordyline australis 'Sundance'** (New Zealand cabbage tree)

Large evergreen shrub or small tree 1.5m x 1.5m. The long sword like leaves are red centred. Once established, panicles of fragrant cream coloured flowers are produced in summer.

### **Cornus alba 'Elegantissima'** (red dog wood)

Deciduous white-variegated leaves. Red stems to 2m. This shrub should be hard pruned every 2 years in March to maintain a supply of young red stems in winter.

### **Corokia x virgata** (wire netting bush)

Evergreen shrub 2m tall with small, brownish green leaves. Flowers are tiny and yellow in early summer, followed by small orange fruits.

### **Cotoneaster franchetii**

Semi-evergreen shrub 2m x 2m. White flowers in June, followed by orange-scarlet berries in Autumn.

### **Cupressus sempervirens** (Italian cypress)

Evergreen conifer 8m x 75cm, having a narrow, columnar habit.

### **Cytisus x kewensis** (broom)

A semi-prostrate shrub 30cm x 1m. Many cream coloured flowers in May.

### **Cytisus 'Lena'** (broom)

Compact shrub to 1m. Flowers yellow and red in May.

### **Dianthus deltoides** (maiden pink)

Spreading rock plant with cerise flowers in summer.

### **Dorycnium hirsutum**

Dwarf shrub 50cm, covered in small, silvery, hairy leaves with pink and white pea flowers, in late summer.

### **Eleagnus x ebbingei** (oleaster)

Fast growing evergreen shrub 3m x 2m. Leaves mid-green and leathery, silver below. Scented flowers in autumn, occasionally orange fruits in spring.

### **Escallonia 'Peach Blossom'**

Evergreen with small glossy leaves 1m x 1.2m. Flowers clear pink/peach in summer.

### **Euonymus fortunei** 'Emerald Gaiety'

Compact evergreen shrub 30cm x 50cm, leaves have white margins, becoming pink tinged in the winter.

### **Euphorbia amygdaloides** *robbiae* (Mrs Robb's bonnet)

Herbaceous plant 46-60cm with rosettes of evergreen stems. Spreading roots. Heads of sulphur-yellow, flowers April-June.

### **Euphorbia characias** *wulfenii* (spurge)

Herbaceous plant 1.2m to 1.5m tall. Evergreen clumps of blue-grey foliage, sulphur yellow flower spikes March-May.

### **Euphorbia myrsinites** (spurge)

Trailing stems, 15cm blue/green triangular shaped leaves, yellow-green flowers April-June.

### **Genista sagittalis** (broom)

Evergreen prostrate shrub 30cm x 50cm, leaves much diminished to minimise water loss. Yellow flowers in June.

### **Genista tinctoria 'Gold Plate'** (dyer's greenwood)

Delicately branched prostrate shrub with minimal leaf area. 50cm x 50cm. Golden flowers in summer.

### **Genista tinctoria** 'Lemon Spreader' (dyer's greenwood)

Lemon yellow flowers in summer.

### **Halimium lasianthum** (sun rose)

Evergreen shrub 6m x 1m, with greyish leaves. Yellow flowers in May.

### **Halimium ocymoides** (sun rose)

Evergreen 6m, with small grey leaves. Yellow flowers in summer.

### **Hebe odora 'New Zealand Gold'** (Veronica)

Dwarf evergreen shrub 30cm, with glossy green/gold foliage and white flowers in summer.

**Hebe 'Carl Teschner'** (Veronica)

Evergreen shrub 150cm x 75cm Violet flowers with a white throat in summer.

**Hebe macrantha** (Veronica)

Small, evergreen shrub, 60cm., with white flowers in summer.

**Hebe pimeleoides 'Quick Silver'** (Veronica)

Dwarf, evergreen shrub with silver foliage, lilac flowers in summer.

**Hebe rakaiensis** (Veronica)

Compact dwarf evergreen shrub with white flowers in summer.

**Halimocistus x wintonensis 'Merrist Wood Cream'**

Dwarf, evergreen with grey leaves. Cream flowers with maroon basal blotch in summer.

**Hebe 'Cranleighensis'** (Veronica)

Evergreen shrub 1m tall with pink flowers in summer.

**Helichrysum italicum serotinum** (curry plant)

Compact evergreen shrub 20cm tall, with fine green leaves and yellow flowers in summer.

**Juniperus horizontalis** (creeping juniper)

Grey-juniper prostrate conifer, foliage becoming purple tinged in winter.

**Juniperus x media 'Aurea'** (golden juniper)

Compact, irregular shaped golden conifer.

**Kniphofia 'Percy's Pride'** (torch lily)

Herbaceous plant, cream flowers, tinged with green and yellow, 1m tall in late summer.

**Kniphofia uvaria 'Royal Castle'** (red hot poker)

Herbaceous plant, red and yellow spikes of flowers in July to September 90cm.

**Lavandula stoechas 'Marshwood'** (French lavender)

Dwarf shrub with narrow grey leaves. Aromatic. Deep purple flowers spikes in summer.

**Lavandula stoechas 'Papillion'** (French lavender)

Dwarf shrub with narrow grey leaves. Aromatic. Purple flowers with large purple bracts, in summer.

**Mahonia japonica**

Evergreen shrub with large, dark green pinnate leaves, 1.5m x 1.5m. Terminal clusters of fragrant yellow flowers during winter.

**Myrtus apiculata 'Glen Cleam'** (myrtle)

Golden variegated evergreen shrub 2m. White flowers in late summer, followed by black, edible fruits.

**Myrtus communis tarentina** (myrtle)

Compact, glossy evergreen foliage to 40cm. White flowers in summer, followed by white berries.

**Nandina domestica** (sacred bamboo)

Evergreen, bamboo-like shrub 1m tall. Compound leaves are tinged red in spring and autumn. White flowers during summer.

**Nandina domestica 'Fire Power'** (sacred bamboo)

Evergreen shrub to 40cm with orange-red foliage in winter. White flowers in summer.

**Olearia x traversii** (daisy bush)

Fast-growing evergreen to 6m tall. Shiny, leathery green leaves, silvery underneath. Insignificant, white daisy flowers in late summer.

**Osmanthus delavayi**

Dainty, small evergreen leaves. A slow-growing shrub reaching 2m, with fragrant white flowers appearing in April.

**Pachysandra terminalis**

Useful evergreen creeping shrub for dry, shady position. Greenish-white flowers in February and March.

**Phlomis fruticosa** (Jerusalem sage)

Small, grey/green shrub 80cm x 80cm. with felty leaves. Bright yellow flowers in summer.

**Phormium cookianum 'Cream Delight'** (mountain flax)

Architectural plants 1m x 2m with handsome, sword-like, yellow striped leaves.

**Phormium cookianum 'Pink stripe'** (mountain flax)

New Zealand evergreen 1m x 2m with pink-striped sword-like leaves.

**Santolina chamaecyparissus** (lavender cotton)

Small evergreen shrub, 50cm x 50cm with silvery feathery foliage. Lemon-yellow flowers in July.

**Sarcococca confusa** (Christmas box)

Small evergreen shrub .6m x 1m. Cream, fragrant flowers in late winter, followed by black fruits. Shade tolerant.

**Sarcococca hookeriana digyna** (Christmas box)

Evergreen shrub 1.5m x 1.5m with narrow green leaves. White flowers with pink anthers in winter. Shade tolerant.

**Spartium junceum** (Spanish broom)

Upright green-stemmed shrub 3m x 1m, the leaves are reduced to a minimum. Large, pea-shaped yellow flowers throughout summer and autumn.

**Stipa gigantea** (golden oats)

Evergreen perennial grass 45cm tall, developing shining flower and seed heads 1m tall, in summer.

**Teucrium fruticans** (shrubby germander)

Small, evergreen shrub of loose habit with grey/green leaves, which are white underneath. Pale blue flowers during summer.

**Thymus 'Bressingham Pink'** (thyme)

Spreading green foliage, pink flowers. Fragrant.

**Thymus 'Golden Queen'** (thyme)

Spreading, golden-leaved thyme. Lemon scented.

**Thymus 'Pink Chintz'** (thyme)

Spreading green foliage, pink flowers. Fragrant.

**Thymus 'Silver Queen'** (thyme)

Spreading, silver-leaved thyme. Lemon scented.

**Yucca filamentosa**

Evergreen rosettes of slightly glaucous lanceolate leaves. Flower spikes 1-2m tall July and August.

