

Free ways to save water outside



01

Collect rainwater

One or two water butts refilled from the house's downpipes collect clean rainwater which can be used to water sensitive garden plants. They can also be topped up with water recycled after household use.

02

Try to avoid using hosepipes and particularly avoid using sprinklers

A normal hosepipe will probably use 8 – 10 litres per minute. In an hour this uses most of a normal person's daily consumption.

- There is almost never a need to water an established lawn – grass can recover quickly however brown it gets.
- Watering cans use less water and also allow you to direct the water to the soil and plants' roots rather than it evaporating off the leaves and not doing the job intended.
- Pressure washers can use much higher flow rates and should be used extremely sparingly, if at all.

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03

Limit washing cars and windows

Wash cars as infrequently as possible, although lights and windows should be kept clear and clean for safety reasons. Use a bucket rather than a hose.

- Save energy by using lukewarm rather than hot water when applying the detergent.
- If you must use a hose to rinse off, set the nozzle to a fine spray and switch it off as soon as possible.

04

Check outside taps are not leaking

Outside taps are vulnerable to freezing if not drained properly and can then leak persistently, costing you money and possibly causing further damage. They can also be left running for a period of time without anyone noticing.

05

Use mulch on your garden

Mulch protects plants in hot and cold weather.

- Mulch is any natural material used to cover the soil.
- It helps retain moisture in the soil in hot weather.
- It helps protect roots in cold weather.
- It can help prevent weeds getting established.

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06

Plant drought hardy plants

Do your homework on what plants can tolerate dry spells the best.

- Keen gardeners will know what plants are tolerant of different conditions.
- Temperature and climate are as important as the sunny or shady spots in the garden and the type of soil.

07

Avoid using large paddling pools and hot tubs

Used often, they consume large amounts of water and hot tubs also use a lot of energy.

- Filling a small paddling pool uses the normal water consumption of 10 people in a day, a large one much more.
- Filling a hot tub could use 1.5 – 3 cubic meters of water, enough for 12 – 25 people's daily water consumption.
- Energy costs could be £1 – £1.50 per day, ie £50 – £75 per year if the hot tub is in use for 50 days or more.

Free ways to save energy on your outside lighting and heating



01

Check outside lighting

- Remember to switch them off when not needed.
- Use LED or, better still, solar powered lighting.
- Do you really need garden lighting on at night?



02

Control outside heating costs

- Heaters are typically 2kW but can be higher. The cost to run one will be around 60p per hour.
- Use lower power settings to take the chill off.
- Minimise run times or fit timers so you don't forget.