



# Cost-saving on Water Bills

How to make big savings on your water bills while still having plenty of water for your household

## Water suppliers

You have no choice about who provides water for your home, so the only way to reduce your bills is to reduce your usage, and to see if you are eligible for a low household income discount.

## Understanding your water bill

Households pay for water twice, firstly when it comes into your home as fresh water, and again when it goes down the drain as waste water. Fresh water usage is measured by your water meter, and water companies use that same figure to calculate your waste water. Every time you reduce water usage, you are saving from both parts of your water bill at the same time.

## Get a water meter installed

For homes without a water meter, water bills are calculated based on the rateable value of your property instead of your water usage. For most homes without a water meter you have option to request one installed. Use online calculator such as [Thames Water usage and saving calculator](#) to work out your usage. If your typical usage is less than the rateable figure, ask your water provider to install a meter so that you only pay for what you use. Water meter installation is free.

## Half price water bills

Low household incomes are eligible. Contact your water provider. Some areas have two water providers, one for providing fresh water and one for the responsibility of waste water, so you may need to contact two companies. Check this on your bills.

## Reduce water wastage

- **Install dual button toilet flush** which reduces toilet water usage by half provided you press only one button. Flushing the toilet accounts for about 30 percent of household water usage.
- **Turn off taps fully after use.**
- **Avoid running cold tap** until it's really cold to drink in warm weather. Instead fill a jug with tap water and keep in fridge to chill.
- **Fill washing machine with full load** where possible, instead of doing multiple smaller loads.
- **Banish leaks** from dripping taps or leaking toilet cistern. A toilet continually filling from the cistern, for example, adds around £20 per month to the bill. Cost effective to call plumber for bigger leaks. For tiny pipe leaks, fix by wrapping silicone waterproof repair tape around the leaking joint in the pipe. No DIY skill needed, check out YouTube for videos. Price around £7 from retailers such as Amazon and local trades stores such as Screwfix.

## Useful links

[Water usage calculator](#)

[www.moneysavingexpert.com/utilities](http://www.moneysavingexpert.com/utilities)

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Visit <https://www.eft.nhs.uk/service-users-and-carers/cost-living> for more tips and advice on how to save on your household bills.