

# Cost-saving on Water Bills

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

### Ways to reduce water bills

- Consider getting a water meter
- Make sure your water meter is read.
- Reduce the amount of water you use.

### Half price water bills

Low household incomes are eligible. Discount is automatically applied if you receive means tested benefits. Otherwise contact Thames Water directly.

### 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. So it's a fixed amount regardless of your usage. For most homes without a water meter you can request for one to be installed. Use online calculator

[www.thameswater.co.uk/help/water-saving/water-saving-calculator](http://www.thameswater.co.uk/help/water-saving/water-saving-calculator) to work out your usage. If your typical usage is less than the rateable figure on your bills, ask your water provider to install a meter so that you only pay for what you use. Water meter installation is free.

### 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



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usage, you are saving from both parts of your water bill at the same time. If your meter is not read you will get an estimated bill which is always higher.

### 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 can add £20 per month to the bill. Cost effective to call plumber for bigger leaks. For tiny leaks, fix by wrapping silicone waterproof repair tape around the leaking joint on the pipe. No DIY skill needed, watch YouTube videos. Tape price about £7 from retailers such as Amazon and local plumber stores.

### Earn while you learn

Thames Water has partnered up with Greenredeem. Lots of simple videos and quizzes full of advice and tips for reducing water usage at home. Earn £5 vouchers to spend at M&S, Sainsburys, Boots chemist, and other stores while you watch and learn.

[thames-water.greenredeem.co.uk/](http://thames-water.greenredeem.co.uk/)

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Scan QR code or go to [www.elft.nhs.uk/cost-living-tips](http://www.elft.nhs.uk/cost-living-tips)

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