

Water Saving Tips for Outdoors

An average household has half a tonne of water delivered to their door every day and the energy costs associated with treating and pumping this water are huge. The water we use outdoors accounts for around 7% of the total water use, but in the summer this can rise to over 50% of peak demand. We can help to reduce this amount by using water wisely in the garden.

Water Butts

Now Spring is in sight it's the perfect time to start thinking about collecting water to use in the Summer. Your roof collects tens of thousands of litres of rain each year, which then just runs straight down the drains. This could fill hundreds of water butts, which could be used to water your garden, your houseplants, or wash your car for free.

You can buy a water butt from the local water company (United Utilities) or a DIY store. These can be pricey though so why not make your own.

All you need is an old plastic dustbin with a lid, a rainwater diverter kit and a water butt tap. These can be bought from garden centres or DIY stores. The rainwater diverter is attached to the drainpipe and the water is directed into the old dustbin. Attaching a tap to the water butt makes it easy to use the water you've collected.

For information about constructing a water butt visit www.waterwise.org.uk

Other Tips to Save Water Outdoors

- Use a Watering Can

Your hosepipe can emit as much as 18 litres of water a minute. Instead use a watering can in your garden you can significantly reduce the amount of water wasted. If you must use a hosepipe fit it with a trigger gun to control the flow.

- Be Sprinkler Savvy

We all love our gardens, but sprinklers can use as much as 1,000 litres of water per hour. Using your sprinkler early in the morning or late in the evening will mean less water will evaporate from your garden and more will get to the roots, where you actually want it.

- The Bucket and Sponge Approach

Rather than washing your car with a running hosepipe, try using a bucket and sponge instead. Just 30 minutes with a hosepipe will use hundreds of litres and using a bucket will give your car a much more precise wash.

Information taken from Waterwise website - the leading authority on water efficiency in the UK and the Energy Saving Trust website. For more information about saving water visit www.waterwise.org.uk or www.energysavingtrust.org.uk

For more information about environmental initiatives in Tarvin visit the Tarvin Environment Group's website at www.tarvinenvironment.org.uk