

Blackrock Green Home

'Water Wise'



WEEK 2 – LOW COST AND NO COST WAYS TO CONSERVE WATER AT HOME

General Tips:

- Reduce your water consumption by changing your water-use habits. Check out some ideas in the kitchen, bathroom and outdoors.
- Make sure to turn taps off properly.
- Repair leaky plumbing fixtures, such as taps and toilets. A dripping tap can waste up to 200 litres a day.
- Don't leave the tap running while brushing your teeth.
- Retrofit your home with more efficient water-using fixtures and products. How about a 'Hippo bag' (or similar) for your toilet cistern - this can save 3 litres of water per flush (see below).
- Fit eco-shower heads in the bathroom and save up to 50% of the water used, which means you save money also as you use less hot water.
- Fit aerators or flow-control valves onto your taps. Standard taps can run up to 15-20 litres a minute. Aerated taps can reduce water flow by 50%; they cause less splashing and the water supplied is still as effective for washing.
- Rainwater can be collected and used instead of tap water (see below).
- Use environmentally safe cleaning products to reduce the impact of chemicals on our waters.
- Don't pour paint, antifreeze or other chemicals down a drain – dispose of unwanted chemicals, solvents and oils responsibly.



“Hippo Bag” Instructions

Hippo bags are a simple and proven water saving device to help conserve water in toilet cisterns. Installing a Hippo bag couldn't be easier and will save up to three litres of water per flush. Simply place the device in the water underneath your cistern float. When the toilet is flushed, the water confined within the Hippo's polyethylene bag is saved. Fitting instructions are provided with the bag.



Alternatively you could just fill a 2 litre plastic bottle with water and place it in the cistern!

Hippo bags and other devices should only be used in toilet cisterns with a 9 litre flush or greater (usually pre-1993). Dual-flush and slimline toilets are already water efficient and do not need any type of cistern device.

Conserving Water in the Garden – Water Butts

A water butt can be used for collecting rainwater from your roof's drainpipes. This water can then be used for watering your garden or for other general use outdoors.

The water butt is connected to a downpipe using a diverter pipe. Once the water butt is full, any surplus water flows down the lower part of the drainpipe as usual. Full fitting instructions are provided with the butt.

Water butts are available from local DIY stores, usually come in two sizes, and cost from around €40 to €60 each.



Did you know: Water use contributes to your carbon footprint because energy is needed to treat it before use, and also to treat the waste water afterwards.

For more tips on conserving water see:

<http://www.greenhome.ie/Water/actionplan>

<http://taptips.ie/downloads/HowMuchWater.pdf>

