



Here's a few reasons why it's important to make new homes water efficient.

Your customers

All new homes should have a water meter, but some of your customers might not have had one before, so they'll thank you for doing everything you can to help them lower their water and energy bills. Protecting the environment is also important to them – especially for their children's future.

Planning – locally and nationally

Some planning authorities will ask for limits of 125 or 110 litres of water per person per day on new developments as part of the Building Regulations Part G – houses need to be water efficient to meet these targets. The Government is looking at introducing a new compulsory target.

Protecting the environment

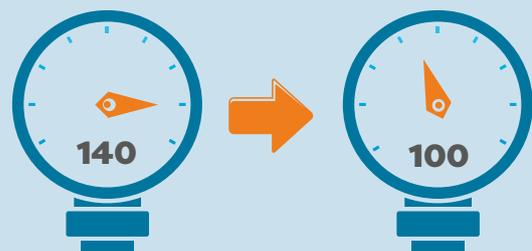
It's the right thing to do for people, nature and the economy. We all need to leave more water in the environment to protect rivers, streams and wildlife. The South East and East of England are already water-stressed and other areas are likely to follow.

Cost savings to you

Many water companies are offering to reduce or waiver water infrastructure charges, if you build water efficient homes. You pay these charges per property when you connect to the water network, to contribute to the cost of providing water services.

Your reputation

Your customers, communities and governing bodies will think more of you and your work if you show their needs and values are important to you.



The average UK water use is about 140 litres per person right now. The National Infrastructure Commission is recommending 118 litres for everyone – new homes and old – and water companies are setting ambitious targets in their long-term plans – some as low as 100.

How to create water efficient homes

A few simple choices can make a big difference to the water footprint of a new house.

Showers – water efficient showerheads can save more than a third of water, and the energy to heat it, while still providing a great shower experience.

Toilets – dual flush toilets should have a maximum flush of six litres to comply with the Water Fittings Regulations. Make sure they are installed properly to avoid leaks – one of the biggest causes of water loss in homes.

Taps – inexpensive aerators add air into the water – using less and the flow feels the same.

Water butts – installing a water butt on a down pipe is a great gift for new homeowners.

Gardens – think about drought-resistant plants and mulch.

Greywater or rainwater harvesting – nearly a third of the water used in homes is flushed down the toilet. Rainwater harvesting and greywater recycling can both generate water to flush the loo, wash the car or water the garden. These systems are much more efficient and cost effective when installed during construction. Care must be taken to ensure they are installed correctly and not illegally cross-connected to the water supply.

Tools to help

Here are a few tools to help plan your development.



The Water Label

The European Water Label rates bathroom products in terms of their water efficiency. Visit europeanwaterlabel.eu and look for A rated products.



The Calculator

This free calculator helps work out how much water your development will use and how you can reduce it to meet guidelines – you can access it at thewatercalculator.org.uk



Waterwise

Waterwise is an independent, not-for-profit organisation focused on reducing water consumption in the UK. Visit waterwise.org.uk for advice and support.

We need more ambitious water efficiency – for customers, the environment, society and the economy. It's perfectly doable to get down to 100 litres per person per day in the next 20 to 25 years.

Nicci Russell, Managing Director, Waterwise

Who can support you?

WaterSafe is the national register of approved plumbers in the UK, supported by all the UK water companies and the drinking water quality regulators.

Plumbing businesses on its register are all trained in the Water Fittings Regulations – the national requirements which govern the design, installation, operation and maintenance of plumbing systems, water fittings and appliances which use water.

As well as protecting the quality of drinking water, the regulations are designed to prevent the ‘waste and undue consumption of water’.

For most types of plumbing work, plumbers have a legal duty to notify the local water supplier before they start work and this can lead to delays. Approved plumbers can carry out some work without advanced notification.

Some water companies may also provide incentives if you use an

approved plumber or groundworker to carry out work. A ‘work completed’ certificate issued by a WaterSafe plumber also provides a defence if challenged by a supplier enforcing the Water Fittings Regulations.

Approved products

WaterSafe-approved plumbers can also offer advice on approved plumbing products – both to avoid waste and protect water quality. You should make sure products you use have been tested against appropriate standards.

One easy way to check if a product is suitable is to look for the ‘WRAS Approved logo’ on packaging. The Water Regulations Advisory Scheme (WRAS) is supported by all UK water companies and provides a directory of approved products at wras.co.uk

Other equivalent directories include kiwa.com/waterproducts.

Find WaterSafe plumbers at
watersafe.org.uk

