



Water friendly living

Water is an important resource, essential for all living things. Rivers and streams are home to amazing wildlife, and some of the UK's rarest plants and animals.

The water from our homes and gardens eventually ends up in our rivers, but we can help our rivers to be healthy for wildlife and people by making small changes to how we live.

Keeping Rivers Healthy

We can all do little things to make our homes and gardens better for our rivers and wildlife:

- Use water wisely
- Don't throw litter or grass cuttings into rivers or streams
- Avoid washing your car on a drive where soap and chemicals can wash in to the drains and in to our rivers
- Avoid using slug pellets and weed killers. Use natural controls instead
- Pick up pet waste in biodegradable bags and put it in your wheelie bin
- Only put the 3 Ps in your toilet - pee, poo and paper



River Wildlife

Find out about the wildlife that lives near and in rivers. With a grown-up, visit a river near where you live and use our River Wildlife sheet as a checklist

What 4 things will you do to help save water?

1. Turn off the tap when I'm brushing my teeth.
2. Chill a jug of drinking water in the fridge instead of waiting for the tap to run cold.
3. Take a shorter shower
4. Water the garden with a watering can using water from a water butt, instead of a hosepipe.

Investigate how you can use water more wisely

How much water can you save if you turn off the tap when you brush your teeth?

It will save up to 18 litres per minutes, so if you brush your teeth twice a day for 2 minutes, that's 72 litres!

Why is it better not to cut your lawn too short?

Longer grass retains more water so less watering is required, and it also provides a great habitat for invertebrates!

Wait until your washing machine or dishwasher is full before you use it. How much water will you save?

It can save you up to 4,500 litres of water per month (and save on electricity too!)

Mend the dripping tap. How much water can be wasted in one day, if a leaky tap has one drip per second ?

One drip per second adds up to over 20 litres per day!

Only rain down the drain

Many of the drains at the roadside lead straight into our streams and rivers. So it's really important to make sure only rain goes down these drains, and we don't pour anything down the drain which could kill wildlife in the river.

Look out for the Yellow Fish symbol near drains to remind people that only rain goes down the drain!

