

Metering - How You Can Use Less Water & Save Money

WHY USE A WATER METER?



The main advantage of having a water meter is that you only get charged for the water you use, rather than on the basis of your property's size. A meter puts you in control - the less water you use, the less you pay. It's that simple and you may notice the difference in your next bill. In addition, meter installation is completely free!

Apart from the financial benefits to you, using less water means that less water needs to be prepared and treated by Guernsey Water, which in turn is helpful to the environment, as substantial amounts of energy are required to both treat and pump water into our houses.

'The average customer pays between 10-15% less for their metered bills compared to their unmetered bills.'

WHY SHOULD I THINK ABOUT USING LESS WATER?

Water is a precious resource, and nowadays we are using more of it than ever. The reasons for this are:

- Our population is growing
- Our climate is changing
- Our lifestyle requires more and more water

'We now use double the amount of water we did in the 1950's, and it is estimated that in 20 years time we will require an additional 25% more.'

As an example of our current needs, we use between 120 - 150 litres per person per day in our homes, compared to our great-grandparents who were able to get by on about 18 litres a day.

A lot of people believe that water is an infinite resource, but it is not. Just like any resource, the more we use of it the more we need to capture and supply.

Using less water in our homes means that our water sources replenish more quickly i.e. we have to take out less water than is replenished by rainfall.

This gives the streams, reservoirs and the overall water level time to replenish during our wetter winter months, ready for the annual peak during the summer, when demand for water is at its highest.

If you want to think about using less water, you first need to consider how much water you use during your everyday life.

HOW MUCH WATER DO I USE?

The diagrams below show how much water household activities and appliances use (the consumption rates are a guide only - different appliances may vary). The water consumed in litres relates to a single use of that appliance.



Bath - 114 litres

Shower - 30 litres



Power Shower - 60 litres

Toilet Flush - 6 litres



Washing Machine - 114 litres

Dishwasher - 40 litres



General Water Use - 25 litres¹

Hosepipe/Sprinkler - 23 litres²



¹per person per day ²per minute

HOW MUCH MONEY COULD I SAVE WITH A METER?

Taking the average water usage estimates for the appliances/activities on the previous page, it is possible to estimate how much water you generally use. When compared with your unmetered bills, this will demonstrate what kind of saving can be made. To calculate your water usage, run through the following points (using the table on the right as an example):

- A** - Note the average litres per use of each activity
- B** - Work out how many uses per week of each of the activities by your household
- C** - Multiply this number by the average litres per use figure (**A**)
- D** - Multiply this number by 52 to get an annual total.

The total can then be checked against the table below, which shows what you can expect to pay for your bill if you are on a meter (based on 2012 figures, and **includes the Wastewater Charge**).

ACTIVITY (based on a 4-person household)	A - Average Litres per use	B - No. of uses per week by household	C - Litres used per week by household (A X B)	D - Litres used per year by household (C X 52)
Baths	114	6	684	35,568
Showers (ordinary)	30	0	0	0
Showers (power)	60	12	720	37,440
Toilet flushes	6	60	360	18,720
Washing machine	114	5	570	29,640
Dishwasher	40	5	200	10,400
General water use (cooking, drinking, basin use etc.)	175 (litres per person per week)	4	700	36,400
Hosepipe/sprinkler for garden or car	23 (litres per minute)	2	46	2,392
ANNUAL TOTAL (litres)				170,560
QUARTERLY TOTAL (litres)				42,640

Quarterly water usage (litres)	5,000 (5m ³)	10,000 (10m ³)	15,000 (15m ³)	20,000 (20m ³)	25,000 (25m ³)	30,000 (30m ³)	35,000 (35m ³)	40,000 (40m ³)	45,000 (45m ³)	50,000 (50m ³)	55,000 (55m ³)	60,000 (60m ³)
Quarterly clean water charge	£34.72	£43.72	£52.72	£61.72	£70.72	£79.72	£88.72	£97.72	£106.72	£115.72	£124.72	£133.72
Quarterly wastewater charge	£23.67	£26.77	£29.87	£32.97	£36.07	£39.17	£42.27	£45.37	£48.47	£51.57	£54.67	£57.77
Total quarterly bill	£58.39	£70.49	£82.59	£94.69	£106.79	£118.89	£130.99	£143.09	£155.19	£167.29	£179.39	£191.49

Clean water figures include a fixed standing charge of £25.72 per quarter for a 15mm (1/2") domestic meter, which is the most common connection. M³ - cubic metre. Wastewater figures include a fixed standing charge of £7.71 per quarter and a 'sewage treatment investigation' charge of £12.86 per quarter.

If the example on the usage table related to an unmetered dwelling with a TRP (Tax on Real Property) rating of 200 (an approximated 'equivalent'), then the total quarterly bill for clean and wastewater would work out at **£170.29**. If the property was metered, and used the 42,640 litres as estimated in the table, then the quarterly bill would be about **£149.08** - a **12.5% saving**. However, if you would like to save further money and help the environment at the same time, then you could try and use less water in your daily activities.

HOW CAN I USE LESS WATER?

IN THE KITCHEN



- Mend that leaky tap! A tap that drips once a second can waste 33 litres per day
- Never leave a tap running - use a bowl to wash vegetables or to wash and rinse dishes
- Use the leftover water to water your plants (providing it's not too soapy)
- Only use your washing machine on a full load - half loads are neither water nor energy efficient
- Store drinking water in a jug in the fridge rather than waiting for the tap to run cold - this could save litres of water.

IN THE BATHROOM



- When buying a new toilet, consider a dual-flush cistern - this enables you to choose a short flush most of the time
- Taking a quick shower uses a lot less water than a bath
- Don't keep the tap running while cleaning your teeth - this could waste up to 10 litres of water each time you clean your teeth. Use a mug of water instead
- Put the plug in the basin and only run as much water as you need
- Check all taps for leaks and drips - the addition of a simple washer may save you litres of lost water.

IN THE GARDEN



- Use a water butt to collect rainwater from your roof, and use this for watering plants. You can buy these from garden centres
- Use a watering can to water your garden instead of a hosepipe or sprinkler
- If you must use a hosepipe, then fit a trigger nozzle at the end so you can control the flow of water
- Check the weather forecast before watering - it might be about to rain!
- Water plants when it's cool (early morning or during the evening) so less water is lost through evaporation.