

UNDERSTANDING YOUR WATER CONSUMPTION

Understanding how much water you use and then setting a target for your club's water savings is a great way to engage all members, including juniors in saving water.

My club has a meter

If you have a meter look at your water bills for the last 3-5 years and look at the annual water consumption (this is shown in cubic metres (m³) on your bill.

You can take an average to work out a typical consumption for your club.

Note that water consumption might not be uniform from year to year due to variation in weather and the demand for irrigation as well as any alterations that may have gone on in the club house such as a new dishwasher.

You can use your meter to calculate water consumption over shorter periods. Take a reading on a particular day in the season (write down all the digits on the meter – the digits in red are fractions of a cubic metre.). Wait three weeks and then take another reading at the same time and on the same day of the week.

Calculate the difference and divide this by three – this will give you an average consumption for a week.



My club does not have a meter

If you don't have a meter it might be worth considering investing in one (you will need to calculate whether it is cost effective for you to do so – typically water companies will encourage you to get a water meter with lower pricing but this does depend on how much water you use).

The following should help you calculate how much water you are using so that you can work out what savings a meter could make.



Go around the club itemising where water is used and for what. The main areas to consider are;

- Changing rooms (showers, lavatories, wash basins)
- Separate lavatories
- Kitchen (sinks, dishwasher)
- Bar (sinks, glass washer)
- Grounds (irrigation, machinery wash down, filling sprayers)

Try and find out how much water is used in each area. For example;

- find out the lavatory cistern capacity and estimate how many times a lavatory might be flushed (e.g. once per player per fixture), or;
- how big the hot water tank is for showers

When you have an estimation then multiply this by 1.1 to allow an error margin of 10%

Pitch Preparation

Work out how much water you use in pitch preparation, there are three ways to find out how much water is used on your ground(s);

1. If you have a meter, use the meter observation method described above
2. Take a typical builder bucket (normally 14 litres) and time how long it takes to fill the bucket with the hose used to supply the square (using any nozzles that you would typically use). Divide the size of the bucket in litres by the amount of time in minutes – this gives you your flow rate. Multiply this by the number of minutes spent watering per pitch and then the number of pitch preparations per season. This will provide an estimate of water use on grounds watering in litres. Divide this by 1000 to get cubic metres (m³).
3. You can purchase a hose water meter (for £20 – 30) with a range of couplings including screw threads and ‘Hozelock’ push fit, that you can simply put on the water supply to the square or the hose coupling. These are available from online retailers and provide a quick and easy method for recording grounds water use.



How much water can we save?

Setting a target for your club’s water savings is a great way to engage all members, including juniors in saving water. It creates a focus for the club, especially when this target is turned into a financial value.

Once you know how much water you use in a year and where water is used in the club you can start to identify where savings could be made.

We have provided ideas for water saving in the “Top Tips for Saving Money in the Club House” – have a look at these and estimate how much difference these would make to your water consumption. Bear in mind that some advice given is relatively low cost and quick gain, other adaptation takes longer but should become part of club policy – for example going for low energy, low consumption models when replacing the dishwasher.

The amount that can be saved will vary from club to club but most clubs should be able to achieve a 10-20% reduction in their consumption.

Once you have a target you can convert this into a financial value by taking an approximate cost of £3.50 for cubic metre of water saved (including sewerage cost) – the actual amount will vary with your supplier and your sewerage arrangements – check your water bill.

Once you have a target on terms of water saved and the associated financial savings you can develop your strategy for saving water. Key to this strategy is;

- A target saving in quantity and monetary value
- An action plan for how and where this water should be saved



- A plan for communicating and educating your members regarding your target and your progress to ensure all members remain engaged

Your communication plan could include email, your club website, any social networking sites you use and posters on notice boards

The final thing to consider is how you are going to measure achievement, Make sure that you have an annual evaluation of progress on water saving and communicate your savings – not only to your members but be a leader for other clubs in your area.