

# SAVING WATER IN THE CLUB HOUSE

The following are relatively low cost things you can do to reduce your water consumption:

**1. Know where the water meter and the main stop valve are.**

Knowing how to turn the water supply off in an emergency is essential in the event of major leaks due to frozen pipes for example. Also knowing where the meter is not only allows you to monitor usage through the season but also allows you to check for leaks when the clubhouse is empty – if no one is using water and the meter is still turning over – there is likely to be a leak somewhere.



**2. Stop drips and repair leaks.**

Go around the inside and outside of the Pavilion and any other buildings checking for dripping taps, dripping showers, leaking pipes and overflowing lavatory cisterns. Although it may seem that only small amounts of water are being wasted – leaks are continuous 24 hours a day and the water wasted can soon add up (Waterwise reports a leaking tap can waste 5,500 litres/year – fixing the tap could save £18 a year).

Most plumbing systems have moving parts and seals that wear, degrade and need to be replaced. Replacement parts can be relatively cheap, from a few pence for replacement washers to a few pounds for a toilet ball cock. Most plumbing maintenance requires turning off the water supply before starting any work so find a competent person and if in any doubt use a suitably qualified plumber.

**3. Put a hippo in the tank.**

Older lavatories (pre 1993) are fitted with larger cisterns. You can use a displacement device (such as a Hippo) to reduce consumption in lavatory flushing (in your house, typically 25% of water is flushed in lavatories). Note that modern dual flush lavatories have smaller flush capacities and in these toilets displacement devices should not be used as they mean that you end up having to double flush, using more water. You should also ensure that sanitary waste and paper towels are not disposed of in the toilets as this also increases flushing.



Cistern displacement products are available from hardware stores but contact your water company to see if they offer products free of charge or at subsidised prices. For a really cheap alternative – fill a 1 litre plastic drinks bottle with water, screw the lid on tight and put it in the cistern.

If you have urinals consider a flushing system that senses the presence of users rather than flushing on an automatic time period – that way they are flushed only when necessary.



**4. Fill your dishwasher.**

By ensuring that the dishwasher is full before putting it on, you can save water over time. In fact this goes for other automatic washing equipment such as glass washers and washing machines if you have them. Use 'Eco' programmes where possible – these don't necessarily reduce water but do cut energy consumption – see the appliance manual for details.

#### 5. Don't waste water in showers.

Warm showers are an essential part of any game but can be the largest use of water in a cricket club. You can save water in showers by using water saving shower heads that reduce flow without noticeably reducing the quality of shower. Or use self-closing shower valves (push-button type) to ensure water is not wasted in showers left on. These devices replace shower taps and need the user to press them every 45 seconds or so to maintain the shower flow – after 45 seconds the shower will turn itself off. Make sure that the time period is sensible – too short and they will soon become very unpopular. If you have baths – consider replacing them with showers that use less water. Water that is used in showers needs to be heated, so saving water in showers also helps reduce energy costs.



#### 6. Reduce tap flow.



Fit self-closing taps (where you push the tap down to get flow) – this stops taps being left on accidentally (or deliberately). You can also fit aerators to the end of some taps. These devices are may be available from your water company or from hardware/plumbing stores. They screw into the end of some taps and increase the air in the water stream – giving the impression that flow is much higher than it is – this can help to reduce water consumption – particularly in kitchen sinks but also in wash basins.

#### 7. Cut water waste in the kitchen

When food is being prepared, wash vegetables etc in a bowl so that the tap is not left running. This also applies to washing-up by hand – make sure there are washing up bowls provided and use signs to help guide people in how to use water efficiently.



#### 8. Lag pipes or drain your water system to avoid leaks

Make sure that pipework is insulated with lagging to prevent it freezing, particularly where pipes run through unheated rooms and loft space. If you do not use your pavilion during the winter you could consider draining the water system so that water is not left to freeze in pipes. When water freezes it can expand up to eight times in volume – this can burst pipes which then leak water when thawed.

