**Something for the weekend.....Action #11:  
Wastebust your water**

My own child informed me this week:  
💧 each of us, on average, get through 80 litres of water a day  
💧 having a shower for 5 minutes will still use significantly less water than your average bath

( [Waterwise](https://www.facebook.com/waterwiseuk/?ref=gs&__tn__=%2CdK-R-R&eid=ARAF1GBkb6AHYBho388flVEIF7eFniooDRvr8JkJXtCmEVP2yvUm4jxREcXkGA0PBYFuQBCjfxyjgst8&fref=gs&dti=308664193075982&hc_location=group) paid a visit to the school!)

It feels like it has been raining all week, so saving water may be far from the forefront of your mind. But according to [Wessex Water](https://www.facebook.com/pages/Wessex-Water/113088498705765?ref=gs&__tn__=%2CdK-R-R&eid=ARCjOBl1T9xiUOGJWI2wJ4zONPxjNCfrVqXV17_KGMPcOVZEl7LnuxttEF0AuUPF3VAycn7zaXqYjeKj&fref=gs&dti=308664193075982&hc_location=group), in 2018, demand for water soared by 20% in our region when temperatures were their highest; yet between May and October we only saw 60% of what would be expected for the time of year.

With rising summer temperatures predicted owing to climate change, conserving water will be high on the agenda for water suppliers; and it should be on ours, as individuals, too.

A major source of emissions is from using hot water within homes. Reducing the time you shower or the amount of hot water you use for cleaning dishes therefore has a significant impact on your personal carbon footprint (Waterwise).

So, if you haven't already, wouldn't this have been a great week to have a water butt to collect our precious resource? Plants and pond life prefer it. If you don't already have one but have outdoor storage space, [BCP Council](https://www.facebook.com/MyBCPCouncil/?ref=gs&__tn__=%2CdK-R-R&eid=ARDK0GHzvdl2Odc8_nhlfLpG3OYca-oP_4KLlc1nVju1ANg2wBmxF3W3cE_uhIgqqTyT3NDt_NQVTucy&fref=gs&dti=308664193075982&hc_location=group) offer water butts at a subsidised rate, see here for more information. [https://getcomposting.com/profile/login](https://l.facebook.com/l.php?u=https%3A%2F%2Fgetcomposting.com%2Fprofile%2Flogin%3Ffbclid%3DIwAR2QeMUkz8Q9rZQXkmcoZAJaoVWh6VA7uIFZW5GJeivAuuXOnVmrbMPjtK4&h=AT3x9gOrF-TyQJvWrJNkcUfRuA6ZB5RUY1TQgAUeX4mxvLNWw9-i7yE_HaQMOxXF6BJ_tmqsExQGbFEW00nSK-lyPR0rd986A4jHtbe6BWCjYDQ3uHmV3iRB2RjnwRViYRowTAWk6HGKm_P-o5puXgCJgO9L0tQrA_zbmg).

Here are some other water wastebusting tips:

🖼 GARDEN  
Always water garden plants in the early mornings or evenings when it is cooler so less is lost to evaporation.

Put saucers under plant containers to catch run off.

Choose plants that thrive in dry conditions - lavender, rosemary, lemon thyme and common sage are good examples of those you can also use in cooking, saving on unnecessary packaging too!

🍽 KITCHEN  
Only wash a full load in your dishwasher and/or washing machine.

Only fill the kettle with the water you will use for that cuppa!

Reduce the amount of meat you cook (if applicable!); 15,415 litres of water are required to produce 1 kg of beef. Only 322 litres of water are required to grow 1 kg of vegetables or 650 litres of water per 1 kg of wheat.

🛀 BATHROOM  
Take the 4 minute challenge for shower times; or reduce your bath by an inch of water.

Don't be tempted to leave the tap running while you brush your teeth or lather soap up on your hands (how did we get into that habit?! Thank you [Southbourne Library](https://www.facebook.com/southbournelibrary/?ref=gs&__tn__=%2CdK-R-R&eid=ARDWhiVWlLEgg7MmRS-BEWP6krodDv3b9S8HNfJ9BIGxrHKyrCDTdyoX-7Pn8mJzwdRwtzi9d50hJo3D&fref=gs&dti=308664193075982&hc_location=group) for pointing out the handwashing fact, as photographed).

Check your loo - 30% of household water usage is from flushing alone! Install a Cistern Displacement Device if you don't have a dual flush - often FREE from water suppliers.

These are small examples that can make a big difference; you will contribute to:

🌳 Making more water available for the natural environment  
⬇️ Reducing energy used in treating water  
✅ Creating less carbon emissions created from treating and transporting water.  
(Wessex Water)

There are plenty more options, depending on your circumstances. Feel free to share tried and tested examples in the comments. Let's continue to learn from each other.