Water Calculators

Did you know? Scottish Water provides drinking water to 2.46 million households and 150,000 business customers in Scotland. Every day it supplies 1.34 billion litres of drinking water and takes away 847 million litres of waste water from customers' properties and treats it before returning it to the environment.

You'll need:
- A measuring jug or bucket (the bigger the better)
- Pen or pencil
- Paper
- Stopwatch (most mobile phones have one)

Optional:
- Colouring pencils, pens or paints, phone or camera.

Many people think that since it rains in Scotland all the time, there is no need to avoid wasting water. Similar, to energy, just because we are fortunate to have access to a lot of something, does not mean we should forget our responsibilities. The average water usage by Scottish families has increased over the past few decades and is projected to continue to rise. Being smart and sensible now with our water use could have big (positive) impact in the near future.

Mild: Your task is to investigate how much water you use for every shower you take. First, figure out how long you usually spend in the shower, next turn your shower on and leave the measuring jug/bucket under it to collect the water, then, turn the shower off after 1 minute. Use the markings on your jug/bucket to find out home much water you used, then times that number by the number of minutes you usually have for a shower. For example. I usually have 15-minute showers, I collected 6 litres of water in 1 minute, so I do 6 x 15 = 90 litres of water for every shower.

Submit a picture/video explaining your results and what you could do to reduce your water usage. How much water could you save a week if you reduced your shower length by 2 minutes?

Medium: Your task is to investigate how much water you use for every shower you take. First, figure out how long you usually spend in the shower, next turn your shower on and leave the measuring jug/bucket under it to collect the water, then, turn the shower off after 1 minute. Use the markings on your jug/bucket to find out home much water you used, then times that number by the number of minutes you usually have for a shower. For example. I usually have 15-minute showers, I collected 6 litres of water in 1 minute, so I do 6 x 15 = 90 litres of water for every shower.

Submit a picture/video explaining your results and what you could do to reduce your water usage. How much water could you save a month if you reduced your shower length by 2 minutes?

Spicy: Your task is to investigate how much water you use for every shower you take. First, figure out how long you usually spend in the shower, next turn your shower on and leave the measuring jug/bucket under it to collect the water, then, turn the shower off after 1 minute. Use the markings on your jug/bucket to find out home much water you used, then times that number by the number of minutes you usually have for a shower. For example. I usually have 15-minute showers, I collected 6 litres of water in 1 minute, so I do 6 x 15 = 90 litres of water for every shower. What about the rest of your family? How long do they a shower for?

Calculate the water usage for showers, for everyone in your house. Submit a picture/video explaining your results and what you could do to reduce your water usage. How much water could your house save a week if you everyone reduced their shower length by 2 minutes?

Extension: Your task is to investigate how much water you use for every shower you take. First, figure out how long you usually spend in the shower, next turn your shower on and leave the measuring jug/bucket under it to collect the water, then, turn the shower off after 1 minute. Use the markings on your jug/bucket to find out home much water you used, then times that number by the number of minutes you usually have for a shower. For example. I usually have 15-minute showers, I collected 6 litres of water in 1 minute, so I do 6 x 15 = 90 litres of water for every shower. What about the rest of your family? How long do they a shower for?

Calculate the water usage for showers, for everyone in your house for 1 week/1 month/1 year. Submit a picture/video explaining your results and what you could do to reduce your water usage. How much water could your house save a year if you everyone reduced their shower length by 2 minutes?

If you use this activity let us know! Share your results using #EcoSchoolsAtHome
on Facebook, on Twitter or on Instagram.