

WATER

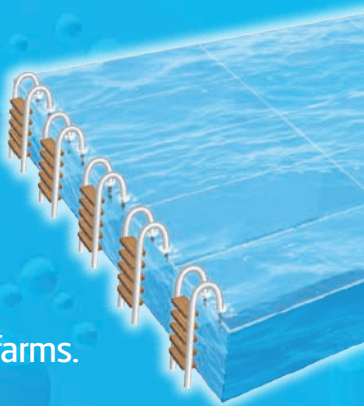
CONSERVATION FOR SCHOOLS



Galway County Council
Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe



Galway County Council collects, cleans and delivers 75 million litres of water a day (or 16 million gallons, which is equivalent to over 30 Olympic size swimming pools) to homes, schools, businesses and farms.



Water that comes to your school has to be taken from the rivers, wells and lakes and treated in a water treatment plant. It has to be distributed through a network of pipes to get to your school.



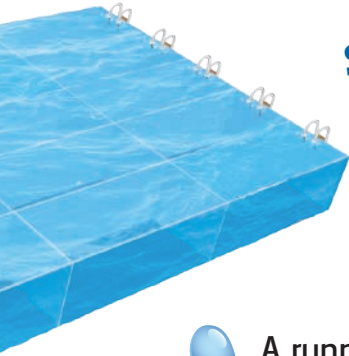
Water is the world's most common and yet most remarkable substance. It covers three quarters of the earth's surface and has many extraordinary properties. Of the total amount of water on the planet, just 3% is fresh water. Most of that is frozen, leaving just 1% to drink.



Water conservation is a year round responsibility, and is just as important during times of heavy rainfall as it is in drought.



SOME WATER USAGE FACTS



We each use on average 150 litres (33 gallons) of clean treated water every day.



A running tap can use up to 10 litres (2.2 gallons) of water a minute.



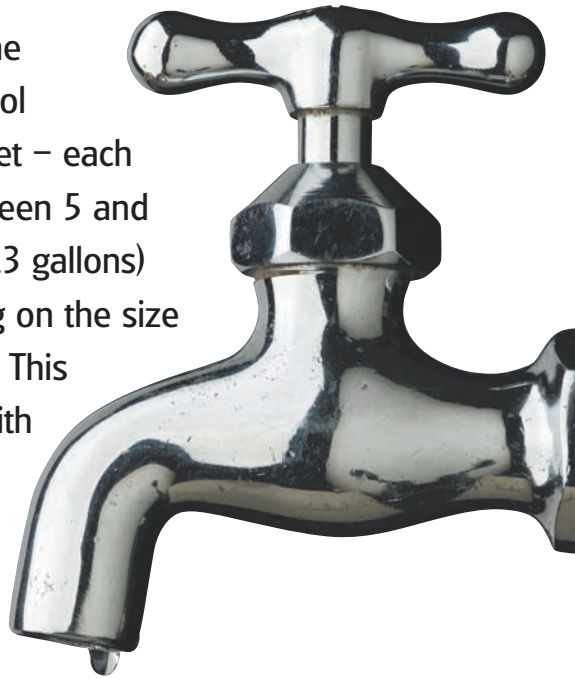
A dripping tap can waste up to 40 litres (8.8 gallons) of water a day.



Over one third of the water used at school goes down the toilet – each flush can use between 5 and 15 litres (1.1 and 3.3 gallons) of water depending on the size of the toilet cistern. This further increases with urinal flushing.



A dishwasher uses between 10 and 40 litres (2.2 and 8.8 gallons) per cycle whether it's full or not.



THINGS THAT CAN WASTE WATER AT YOUR SCHOOL



Are any of the taps in the school dripping or overflows running?

If yes, can the washers be replaced or overflow fixed?



Are the water pipes properly covered to prevent them from freezing in cold weather?

What could happen if they are not?



Do the urinals in the boys toilets flush all the time – even when school is closed?

If yes, ask if this is necessary?



Are school buildings vacant for long periods i.e. weekends, summer holidays etc?

Can the water supply be shut off while vacant?



Are sprinklers and hosepipes used to water gardens?

If yes, are they used in the evening ?



THINGS THAT CAN REDUCE WASTE WATER AT YOUR SCHOOL

- Install flush/flow control devices in all washroom e.g. install Hippo bags in toilet cisterns.
- Fix all leaks and drips.
- Install water butts to collect rainwater for gardening.
- Install auto shut-off or push taps.
- Turn off water at the stopcock during holiday periods.
- Check the plumbing, especially outside and in the roof space to see if it is insulated. Pipes may burst if the water freezes.
- Encourage your friends and neighbourhood to become part of a water conscious community.



HOW MUCH WATER IS USED BY YOUR SCHOOL? (CLASS ACTIVITY)

Find out where the school water meter is. Normally it is located close to the property boundary in a chamber with the stopcock. If you have difficulty locating your meter, Galway County Council will be able to assist.

Read the meter as school starts in the morning...

$$\text{School usage} = \text{Current reading} - \text{Previous reading}$$

This can be carried out daily/weekly/monthly

The values recorded can be graphed and a record of water consumption for the school year established.

(meter reading log and graph on the following pages)

CHECKING FOR LEAKS

There are two simple ways to **check for leaks...**

1. VISUAL CHECKS

Check the ground above your pipes and look for visible signs of a leak, such as unusually damp ground.

2. USE YOUR WATER METER

If you have a water meter you can use it to check for leaks.

Turn off all taps and appliances which use water, then check the meter. If the counter is turning, you may have a leak. But make sure everything is turned off.

READING YOUR WATER METER

1 cubic metre [m³]

=

1000 litres

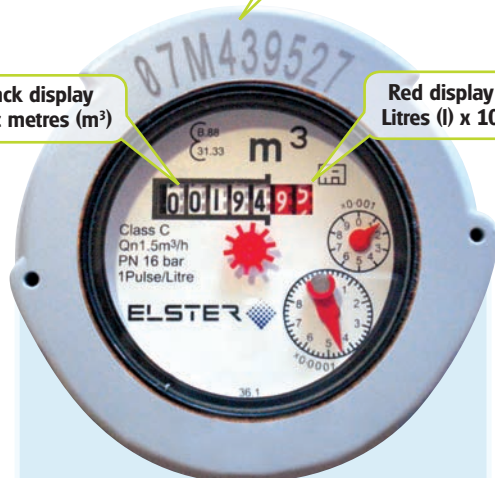
or

220 gallons

**Black display
cubic metres (m³)**

**Meter Serial Number which
corresponds with your bill**

**Red display
Litres (l) x 10**



**Reading Shown = 194.95 m³ = 194,950 litres
= 42,889 gallons**

Note: It is the consumer's responsibility for maintenance and prevention of wastage from the meter.

Read it as school finishes at night ...enter the reading.

A

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

*Read it before school starts in the morning
...enter the reading.*

B

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--




How much was used overnight? (B minus A)

B-A

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

If there is a large difference, there may be a leaking pipe.

If this value increases...

-  Has consumption increased?
-  Has a tap started dripping?
-  Is it a leak?



WATER CONSUMPTION



10

9

8

7

6

5

4

3

2

1

0



School Usage (m^3)

____ Daily/Weekly/Monthly Reading ____



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