

## SAVING WATER



Ireland is one of the few Countries where water charges do not exist but with an annual Government expenditure in excess of 1 billion Euros on water treatment facilities that is all set to change!

It is reckoned that as much as 58% of the water disappears through leaky pipes in some local authority areas. To upgrade the pipes it will cost an additional 1.5 billion Euros over the next two years, so the Government is introducing water charges.

In Britain people pay a flat fee of €567 although meters are an option in some areas. Where water meters are used people can save as much as €141 per household (almost 25%).

So with water charges in the pipeline do you know how much water you are using and equally importantly do you know how to reduce the amount of water you are using?

It is likely that each household will be given an annual allowance, but how generous that allowance will be has yet to be announced, so it's best to understand better how and where you can reduce the amount of water used in your household.

### Here are a few interesting facts on Water Saving:

- Less than 1% of the earth's water supply can be used for drinking.
- A small drip from a tap can waste as much as four litres of water a day.
- Two thirds of the water used in a home is used in the bathroom.
- Millions of people around the world must walk for hours each day to fetch water.
- On average every person in Ireland uses 150 litres of water each day.
- Leaving the tap running while you clean your teeth can waste nine litres of water.
- Water consumption usually drops 18-25% when a water metre is fitted.
- Waiting until you have a full load for your washing machine can save up to 70 litres.
- Waiting until you have a full load for your dishwasher can save up to 30 litres.
- A five minute shower uses about a third of the water of a bath, saving up to 400 litres per

week.

- A water saving device in your toilet cistern can save up to three litres per flush.
- Conserve water and reduce the generation of wastewater by repairing any leaks or dripping taps in your home. A dripping tap can waste up to 90 litres of water a day.
- Use a basin when washing dishes - it can save up to 10 litres every time.
- Taking a shower instead of a bath - this can save 300 litres of water per person per week. A power shower though can use more water than a bath.
- Washing your car with a bucket of water will take only 10 litres on average. A hosepipe will use 9 litres per minute.
- Collecting rainwater for watering your plants.