

Toolbox talk – water



Note to trainer

A Toolbox Talk is an informal group discussion that can help you focus on particular issues and problems. It is also a useful tool to deliver training directly in areas of your organisation where you feel performance can be improved.

They help you to share resource efficiency tips with your staff easily. There are talks on water, waste and energy. Feel free to use the facts below as part of a discussion, presentation or workshop, whatever works best in your setting.

Water efficiency

Water is a resource that can often be wasted without anyone noticing. Just because it falls from the sky does not mean it's free and unlimited.

Organisations actually pay for water twice – once for the supply and again for disposal.

A significant part of an organisation's water bill is for the capital and running costs of treatment, pumping, distribution, wastewater disposal and for the maintenance of the network.

Because energy is required during all stages of water supply and disposal, and energy costs are rising all the time, this is reflected in the higher prices that organisations are being charged.

Energy generation also has a high carbon footprint. Therefore, to keep costs down and reduce carbon emissions, it is important to minimise the amount of water we use.

Top tips

Reducing water use can often be a quick and easy way to save money. Just follow these top tips for water conservation:

- don't leave taps running;
- report leaks immediately;
- don't leave any equipment running that uses water when not in use;
- look out for any opportunities to save water – don't assume someone else has identified the opportunity; and
- don't overfill kettles

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