

# CONSERVING WATER IN YOUR GARDEN

**Increasing demand for water** means it is important to find ways of conserving this valuable resource. Saving water in the garden can help to cut the risk of drought, protect wildlife and beat the hosepipe bans that are becoming more common during summer

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## Storing Water

Thousands of litres of rain water fall on the average roof every year. This can be collected to water your plants but also for other activities like washing your car. Water butts are easy to attach to your house, shed, garage, greenhouse, or any other structure that has a gutter and a down pipe. It's estimated that around 24,000 litres can be saved from the average house roof each year.

## Adapting To Climate Change

If you're looking to re-do your lawn or re-seed part of it, choose grass varieties that are better suited to dry conditions like fescue grass or smooth-stalked meadow grass. Letting the grass grow longer in dry spells and applying mulch to planted areas can also help to retain moisture and keep soils healthy.

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## Tips and Tricks

**Soaking your lawn less frequently** is much more effective for keeping your grass healthy than regular, light sprinklings, as this encourages roots to grow deep into the ground in search of water.

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**Using drip-trays beneath potted plants** helps to retain excess water and nutrients for better plant growth in the summer (remove in winter to avoid waterlogging).

**Swapping paving for plants** helps to slow down water runoff and encourages infiltration. This can be done in 2 ways: De-pave an area and fill it with plants and mulch, or choose permeable paving rather than hard landscaping. These methods help to tackle climate change at home by reducing the risk of flood and through urban greening.

## Using greywater

Most water used in the home can be re-used for other purposes, especially during times of drought. This can include water from the shower, sink, bath or even laundry water and is known as 'greywater'. Water with dish soap is perfectly fine for watering your plants and can even act as a pest deterrent. However, greywater from baths and showers should only be used for non-edible plants. Make sure the water is cool before you use it and pour onto the soil rather than the foliage. Alternatively, you can use greywater for washing cars or windows, as a hose uses around 135 litres of water for every 15 minutes.

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