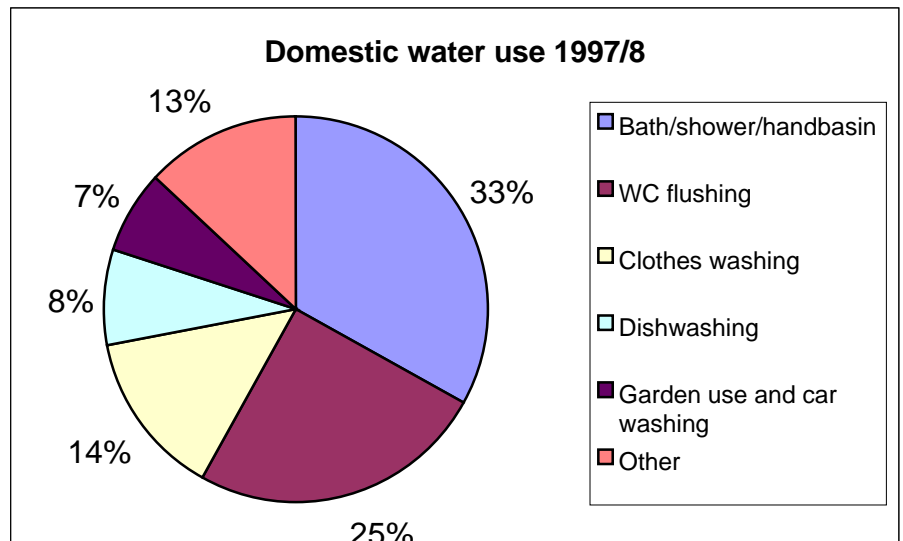




# Water, Water Everywhere !

Here in the UK we use hundreds of litres of water everyday and take it very much for granted. As you can see from the graph we send a quarter of it straight down the toilet and use a third of it for bathing. The average UK consumption of water is 140 litres a day per head. (*Environmental Health Jan 1998*)

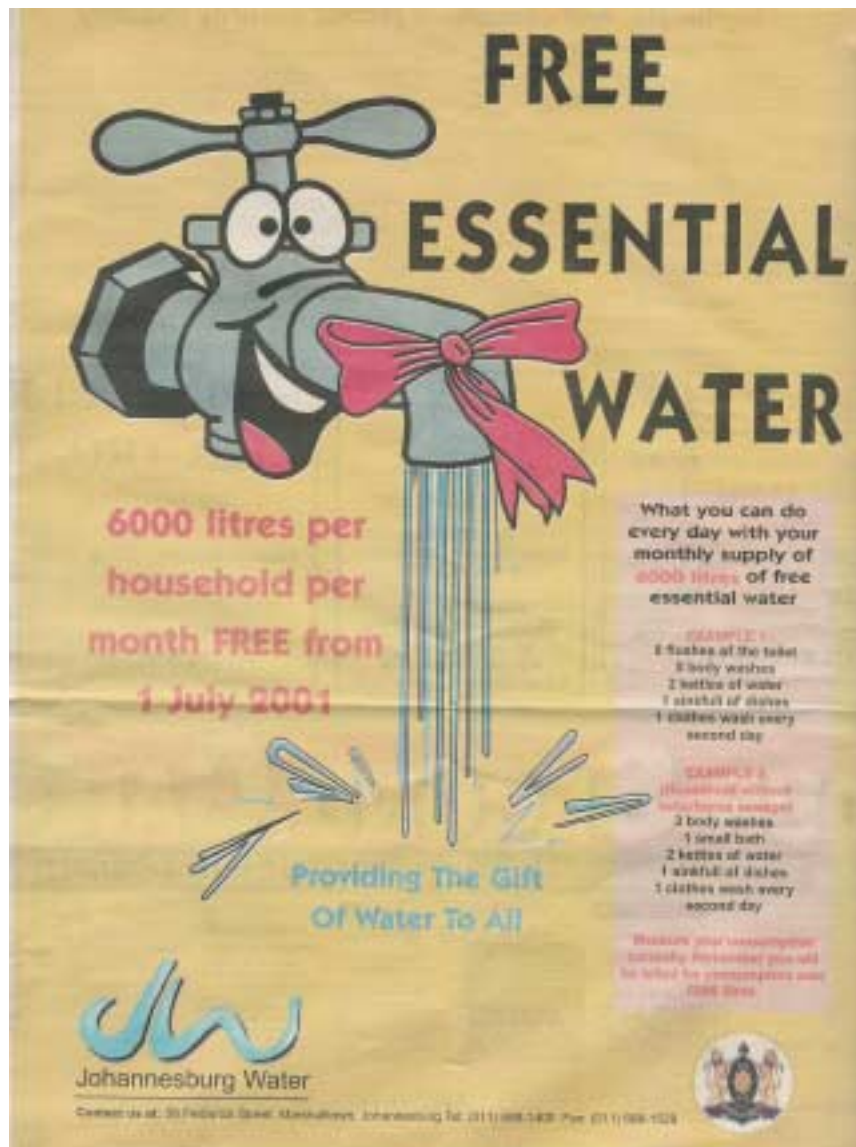


Use the following table (provided by Severn-Trent water) to work out how much water your household would use (i) per year (ii) per month.  
NB 1 cubic metre = 1000 litres

your water use	your calculation	your annual use (cubic metres)
<b>How many people live in your house?</b> Multiply this by 15 to estimate your annual water use for cooking, drinking, washing up, personal hygiene Baths and showers are not included	x 15	
<b>How many baths a week does your household take in total?</b> Multiply this by 6 to estimate your annual household use for baths	x 6	
<b>How many showers a week does your household take in total?</b> Multiply this by 2 to estimate your annual household use for showers	x 2	
<b>How many times a day is your toilet flushed?</b> Multiply this by 35 to estimate your annual toilet use	x 3.5	
<b>How many times a week do you use a washing machine?</b> Multiply this by 6 to estimate your annual household washing machine use	x 6	
<b>How many times a week do you use a dishwasher?</b> Multiply this by 2 to estimate your annual household dishwasher use	x 2	
<b>How often do you use a garden sprinkler or hosepipe?</b> Multiply the number of days use by the number of hours use each day Sprinklers use about 1 cubic metre an hour	x 1	
<b>Do you have a swimming pool?</b> Estimate how many cubic metres you use each year filling it or topping it up		
<b>Add up the figures in the right hand column to estimate the annual water use for your household.</b>		

On 1<sup>st</sup> July 2001 millions of South Africans received their first ever allocation of 6000 litres of free water per month. This follows a promise made by the South African government to help poorer people in their country. However those people who use over the 6000 litres a month will have to pay more than they used to for it.

The following advertisement appeared in the *Sowetan Sunday World* newspaper on July 1<sup>st</sup> and gave some examples of how the water could be used.



**Discuss and decide what your priorities would be if you and your household were limited to 6000 litres a month or 200 litres a day.**

**Will different people in the household have different priorities?**

**What changes would you have to make to your lifestyle?**

On the following page are links to websites that will give you a lot more information on the subject of water.

**Look at these websites to find out more about water supplies around the world:**

[http://www.populationaction.org/why\\_pop/water/water-toc.htm](http://www.populationaction.org/why_pop/water/water-toc.htm)

<http://www.soroptimist.org/janfeb01.htm>

[http://www.beworldwise.org/environmental\\_u2\\_L1.htm](http://www.beworldwise.org/environmental_u2_L1.htm)

<http://www.cnn.com/2000/NATURE/10/05/environment.water.reut/>

<http://www.ratical.org/co-globalize/waterCrisis.html>

<http://ga.water.usgs.gov/edu/mwater.html>

**Try putting ‘Water water everywhere’ into the Google search engine for access to loads more great web sites.**

**e.g. <http://www.beesinc.org/resource/currenha/curewate.htm>**

A calculator for you to work out your household’s water consumption can be found at: <http://www.utilityknowledge.org/resources/calc.htm>