# Thames Water urges shorter showers as driest spring in a century deepens supply squeeze



Thames Water has urged customers to cut everyday water use — starting with shorter showers — as parts of its supply area remain subject to a temporary hosepipe ban after what the company describes as the driest spring in more than a century and an unusually warm early summer. According to the utility, the combination of low rainfall and higher temperatures has driven up demand while reducing the amount of water available in rivers, reservoirs and groundwater stores. The warning comes as national meteorological data show an exceptionally warm, sunny spring that exacerbated stresses on the country’s water resources. (Sources: Thames Water; Met Office)

Andrew Tucker, Thames Water’s water demand reduction manager, told the local press the recent rainfall is welcome but not sufficient. “We welcome the recent rainfall across our region, however, we need persistent and prolonged wet weather to replenish our rivers and reservoirs following the otherwise persistently dry spring and summer,” he said, explaining that sustained rain is needed both to saturate soils and to raise groundwater so the company can safely reduce abstractions from the River Thames and protect levels at Farmoor Reservoir. The company frames restrictions — including the targeted hosepipe ban — as one part of managing supply while those natural systems recover. (Source: Thames Water)

Among the measures Thames Water is promoting is a simple change to shower habits. The company’s research, published as part of its customer guidance, finds the average person spends about eight minutes in the shower and that cutting that time by two minutes could save roughly 20 litres of water per person each day and, the company estimates, about £73 a year on combined water and energy bills. Thames Water presents that figure as an indicative saving based on its usage model rather than an audited household bill reduction. (Sources: Thames Water newsroom; Thames Water customer guidance)

Thames Water’s guidance also reprises familiar household actions: turn taps off while brushing, fix leaking toilets and reduce the number of laundry loads. Public materials from the company note a running basin tap can use around six litres per minute (some of its guidance cites up to nine litres per minute in different contexts), and it warns that leaky toilets can waste in the order of 200–400 litres a day. The firm points customers towards simple behavioural fixes — for example, full loads in dishwashers and washing machines — and tools such as a free online water‑saving calculator to estimate household savings. (Sources: Thames Water; Thames Water help pages)

Thames Water is also encouraging uptake of low‑cost infrastructure such as water butts to capture rainwater for gardens; company figures show only about 27% of households in its region currently use one. It is promoting reduced garden watering, fewer laundry cycles and other small changes that the company says will cumulatively ease demand on supplies while larger hydrological recovery is awaited. (Sources: Thames Water newsroom; Thames Water help pages)

On leakage, the company says it is making progress and investing in faster detection and repair. Shane Gloster, Thames Water’s head of leakage, acknowledged customer frustration at visible leaks during a period of temporary use restrictions but said the business is “fixing, on average, over 650 leaks a week” and that leakage on its network is at its lowest recorded level. Those claims reflect the company’s operational reporting and its ongoing emphasis on using new technology and data to locate bursts more quickly. (Source: Thames Water)

The broader climate and weather context underlines why the utility is pushing behavioural change. The Met Office’s seasonal summaries have highlighted record warmth and exceptional sunshine — describing the spring of 2025 as the warmest and sunniest on record in the UK and noting very low rainfall in many areas — and earlier studies have linked recent warm June records to a long‑term trend in which heat extremes have become more likely. Government and independent analysts say such patterns increase the frequency and severity of short‑term water stress events, making demand management and infrastructure resilience more pressing policy priorities. (Sources: Met Office seasonal analysis; Met Office attribution work)

For households, Thames Water’s message is both practical and precautionary: adopt everyday habits that reduce consumption, check for leaks and use available online tools to estimate savings. The company advises customers that a return to normal river and reservoir conditions will require significant, prolonged rainfall, and that until hydrology recovers the combination of targeted restrictions and voluntary conservation will remain important to protect supplies and vulnerable users. (Sources: Thames Water customer pages; Thames Water newsroom)

### 📌 Reference Map:

## Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.oxfordmail.co.uk/news/25392410.thames-water-suggests-taking-shorter-showers-save-water/?ref=rss), [[6]](https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/about-us/news-and-media/media-centre/weather-and-climate-news/2025/double-record-breaker-spring-2025-is-warmest-and-sunniest-on-uk-record)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://www.oxfordmail.co.uk/news/25392410.thames-water-suggests-taking-shorter-showers-save-water/?ref=rss)
* Paragraph 3 – [[3]](https://www.thameswater.co.uk/news/weff-2025), [[1]](https://www.oxfordmail.co.uk/news/25392410.thames-water-suggests-taking-shorter-showers-save-water/?ref=rss)
* Paragraph 4 – [[1]](https://www.oxfordmail.co.uk/news/25392410.thames-water-suggests-taking-shorter-showers-save-water/?ref=rss), [[3]](https://www.thameswater.co.uk/news/weff-2025), [[7]](https://www.thameswater.co.uk/help/water-saving), [[4]](https://www.thameswater.co.uk/news/households-turning-off-the-taps)
* Paragraph 5 – [[1]](https://www.oxfordmail.co.uk/news/25392410.thames-water-suggests-taking-shorter-showers-save-water/?ref=rss), [[3]](https://www.thameswater.co.uk/news/weff-2025), [[7]](https://www.thameswater.co.uk/help/water-saving)
* Paragraph 6 – [[1]](https://www.oxfordmail.co.uk/news/25392410.thames-water-suggests-taking-shorter-showers-save-water/?ref=rss), [[3]](https://www.thameswater.co.uk/news/weff-2025)
* Paragraph 7 – [[6]](https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/about-us/news-and-media/media-centre/weather-and-climate-news/2025/double-record-breaker-spring-2025-is-warmest-and-sunniest-on-uk-record), [[5]](https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/about-us/press-office/news/weather-and-climate/2023/fingerprints-of-climate-change-on-june-temperature-records)
* Paragraph 8 – [[2]](https://www.thameswater.co.uk/news/2025/jun/every-drop-counts-water-saving-tips-after-driest-spring-in-a-century), [[4]](https://www.thameswater.co.uk/news/households-turning-off-the-taps), [[1]](https://www.oxfordmail.co.uk/news/25392410.thames-water-suggests-taking-shorter-showers-save-water/?ref=rss)

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.oxfordmail.co.uk/news/25392410.thames-water-suggests-taking-shorter-showers-save-water/?ref=rss> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.thameswater.co.uk/news/2025/jun/every-drop-counts-water-saving-tips-after-driest-spring-in-a-century> - Thames Water’s 'Every drop counts' page, published 26 June 2025, warns that the UK experienced its driest spring in over a century and urges customers to reduce water use. It lists practical measures including fixing leaky toilets that can waste 200–400 litres daily, turning taps off when brushing, reducing laundry loads, and using a free water saving calculator. The page explains the need to preserve river and reservoir levels, mentions monitoring of resources and advice that although a hosepipe ban is not currently in force across all areas, customers should remain vigilant and adopt simple everyday actions to conserve water.
3. <https://www.thameswater.co.uk/news/weff-2025> - Thames Water’s WEFF 2025 newsroom article reports survey findings that the average person spends about eight minutes in the shower and that cutting two minutes can save around 20 litres per person per day and about £73 a year on combined water and energy bills. It encourages shorter showers, turning off taps while brushing, fixing leaks and reducing laundry frequency. The article states a running basin tap can use six litres per minute and notes only 27 per cent of households in its region use a water butt, presenting these measures as simple ways to reduce demand and save money.
4. <https://www.thameswater.co.uk/news/households-turning-off-the-taps> - Thames Water’s 'Households turning off the taps' newsroom item emphasises behavioural changes to conserve water, noting a running tap can use six litres per minute and that turning taps off even five seconds sooner saves half a litre. It highlights fixing leaky loos, which may waste around 400 litres a day, and recommends full loads for dishwashers and washing machines. The article directs customers to a free water saving calculator and suggests checking for leaks. It includes comment from an executive urging support for vulnerable households and underlines that daily adjustments can cumulatively reduce demand and ease pressure on supplies.
5. <https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/about-us/press-office/news/weather-and-climate/2023/fingerprints-of-climate-change-on-june-temperature-records> - The Met Office press release from 3 July 2023 confirms June 2023 as the hottest June on record for the UK, with the mean temperature of 15.8°C since records began in 1884. It attributes the event partly to climate change, noting the chance of exceeding previous records has increased since the 1940s. The release describes persistent high temperatures across the month, with many areas experiencing mid-twenties and occasional low-thirties Celsius, and explains the methodology and rapid study linking the event to broader warming trends. The note emphasises that such extremes are becoming more likely under continued greenhouse gas emissions. impacts.
6. <https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/about-us/news-and-media/media-centre/weather-and-climate-news/2025/double-record-breaker-spring-2025-is-warmest-and-sunniest-on-uk-record> - The Met Office’s spring 2025 report describes the season as the warmest and sunniest on record for the UK, noting very low rainfall and stating that by mid‑May it had been the driest spring in over 100 years in some areas, with England seeing its driest spring in more than a century. The bulletin details exceptional sunshine hours, marine heatwave conditions and stressed water resources, warning that prolonged wet weather is required to replenish rivers, reservoirs and groundwater. It frames the conditions within broader climate trends and highlights the challenge these extremes pose for agriculture, ecosystems and water supply management.
7. <https://www.thameswater.co.uk/help/water-saving> - Thames Water’s Help and Advice water-saving page provides practical guidance for customers to reduce consumption and bills. It lists key actions: fix leaky loos that can waste 200–400 litres a day, turn taps off while brushing, use bowls for washing produce, check for leaks and use a water saving calculator. The page notes that a running tap can use up to nine litres per minute and promotes rewards and a partner programme for behavioural change. It emphasises that small household changes add up, offers contact details for WaterSafe plumbers and directs readers to further resources to monitor usage and save.