


# WATER

## CONSERVATION FOR SCHOOLS


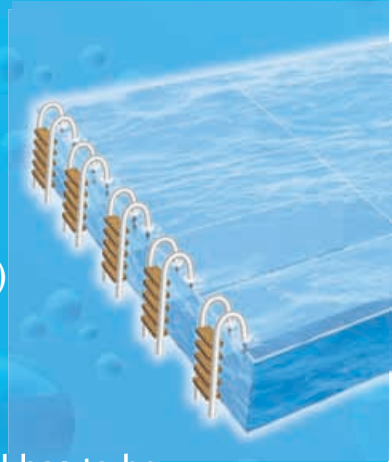


Leitrim  
County  
Council


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Leitrim County Council collects, cleans and delivers 14 million litres of water a day (equivalent to over 6 Olympic size swimming pools) to homes, schools, businesses and farms.



Water that comes to your school has to be taken from the rivers and lakes and treated in a water treatment plant. It has to be distributed through a network of 1,500km of pipe to get to your school.




Water is the world's most common and yet most remarkable substance. It covers three quarters of the earth's surface and has many extraordinary properties. Of the total amount of water on the planet, just 3% is fresh water. Most of that is frozen, leaving just 1% to drink.




Water conservation is a year round responsibility, and just as important during times of heavy rainfall as it is in drought.




## SOME WATER USAGE FACTS




We each use on average 150 litres (33 gallons) of clean treated water every day.




A running tap can use up to 10 litres (2.2 gallons) of water a minute.



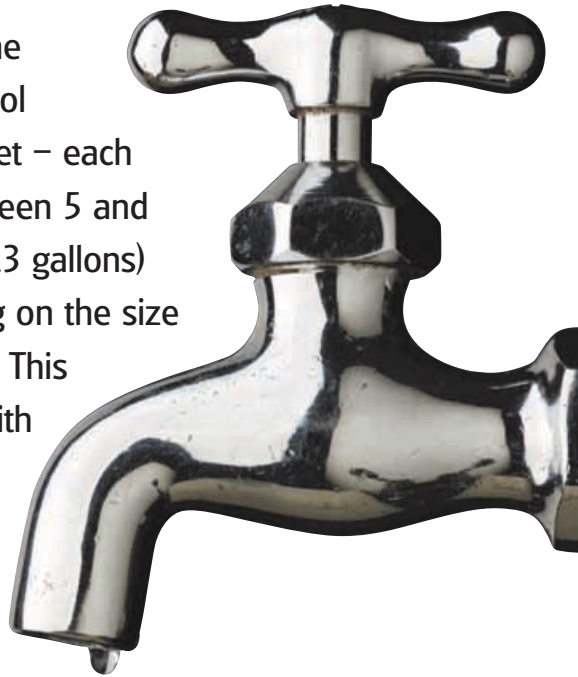
A dripping tap can waste up to 40 litres (8.8 gallons) of water a day.



Over one third of the water used at school goes down the toilet – each flush can use between 5 and 15 litres (1.1 and 3.3 gallons) of water depending on the size of the toilet cistern. This further increases with urinal flushing.



A dishwasher uses between 10 and 40 litres (2.2 and 8.8 gallons) per cycle whether it's full or not.



# THINGS THAT CAN WASTE WATER AT YOUR SCHOOL



Are any of the taps in the school dripping or overflows running?

*If yes, can the washers be replaced or overflow fixed?*



Are the water pipes properly covered to prevent them from freezing in cold weather?

*What could happen if they are not?*



Do the urinals in the boys toilets flush all the time – even when school is closed?

*If yes, ask if this is necessary?*



Are school buildings vacant for long periods i.e. weekends, summer holidays etc.

*Can the water supply be shut off while vacant?*







Are sprinklers and hosepipes used to water gardens?

*If yes, are they used in the evening ?*



# THINGS THAT CAN REDUCE WASTE WATER AT YOUR SCHOOL

-  Install flush/flow control devices in all washrooms  
e.g. install Hippo bags in toilet cisterns
-  Fix all leaks and drips
-  Install water butts to collect rainwater for gardening
-  Install auto shut-off or push taps

## HOW MUCH WATER IS USED BY YOUR SCHOOL? (CLASS ACTIVITY)

Find out where the school water meter is. Normally it is located close to the property boundary in a chamber with the stopcock. If you have difficulty locating your meter, Leitrim County Council will be able to assist.

*Read the meter as school starts in the morning...*

**School usage = Current reading – Previous reading**

This can be carried out daily/weekly/monthly

The values recorded can be graphed and a record of water consumption for the school year established.

*(meter reading log and graph on the following pages)*

# CHECKING FOR LEAKS

There are two simple ways to **check for leaks...**

## 1. VISUAL CHECKS

Check the ground above your pipes to look for visible signs of a leak, such as unusually damp ground.

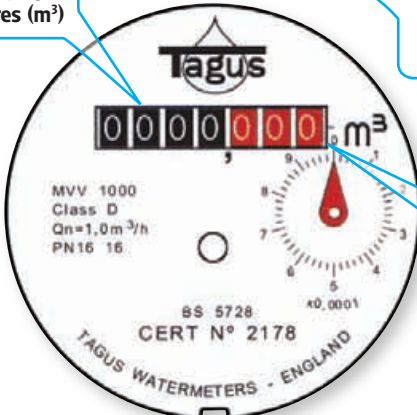
## 2. USE YOUR WATER METER

If you have a water meter you can use it to check for leaks.

Turn off all taps and appliances which use water, then check the meter. If the counter is turning, you may have a leak.

But make sure everything is turned off.

## READING YOUR WATER METER



The image shows a circular Tagus water meter. It features a black display window with six digits (000000) and a red display window with one digit (0). A red needle is visible on a scale from 0 to 10. The meter is labeled with 'Tagus', 'MVV 1000', 'Class D', 'Qn=1,0m<sup>3</sup>/h', 'PN16 16', 'BS 5728', 'CERT N° 2178', and 'TAGUS WATERMETERS - ENGLAND'. A scale factor of 'x0,0001' is also present.

**Black display cubic metres (m<sup>3</sup>)**

**Meter Serial Number which corresponds with your bill is on the meter casing**

**Red display Litres (l)**

**1 cubic metre [m<sup>3</sup>]  
=  
1000 litres  
or  
220 gallons**

Note: It is the consumers responsibility for maintenance and prevention of wastage from the meter.

*Read it as school finishes at night ...enter the reading.*

**A**

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

*Read it before school starts in the morning ...enter the reading.*

**B**

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--




*How much was used overnight? (B minus A)*

**B-A**

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

If there is a large difference, there may be a leaking pipe.

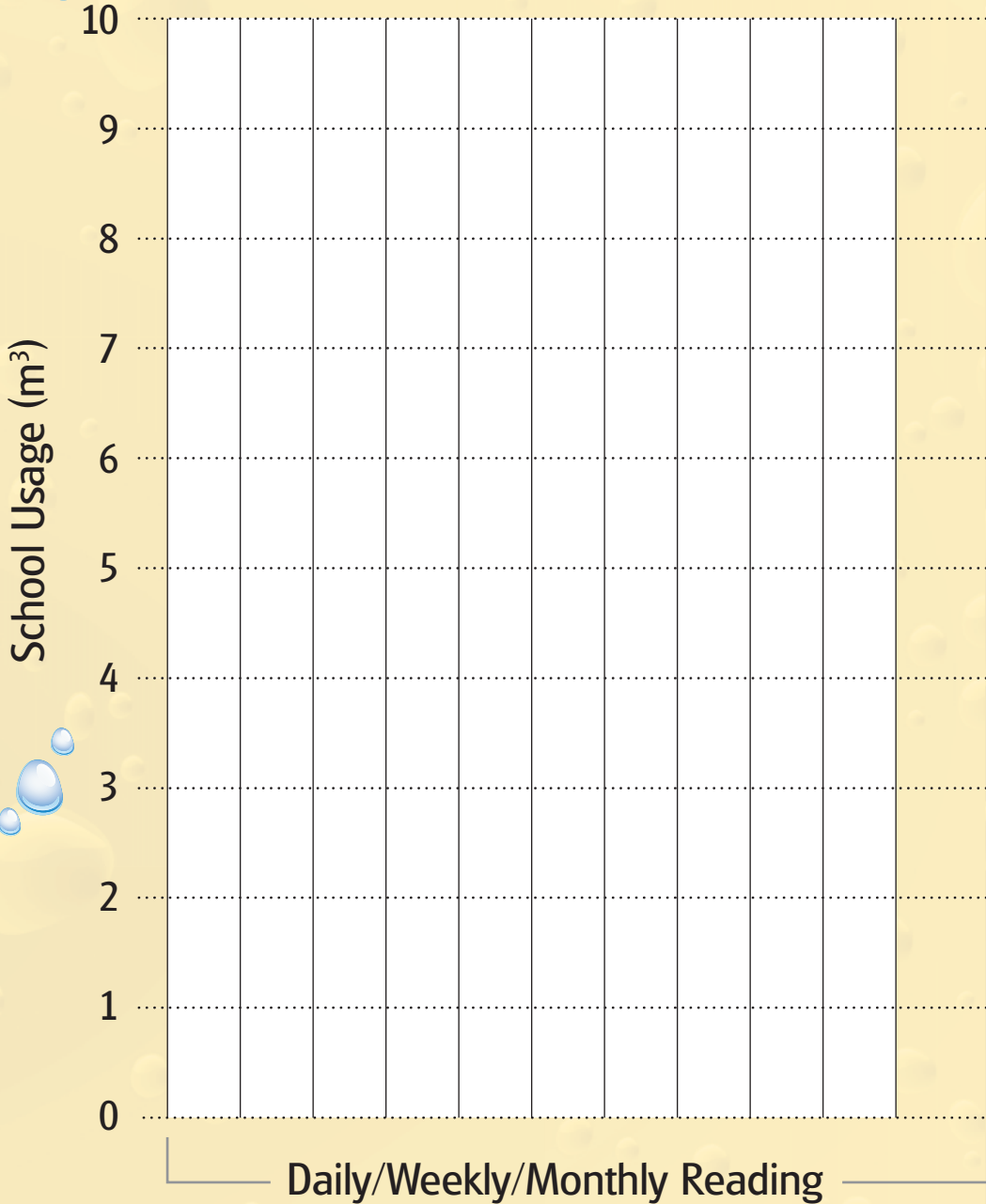
If this value increases...

-  Has consumption increased?
-  Has a tap started dripping?
-  Is it a leak?





# YOUR SCHOOL WA



# WATER CONSUMPTION



10

9

8

7

6

5

4

3

2

1

0

School Usage (m<sup>3</sup>)

\_\_\_\_ Daily/Weekly/Monthly Reading \_\_\_\_



## Water Conservation

Water Services Section  
Leitrim County Council

Water Services Hotline: 1890 302 302

E-mail: [waterconservation@leitrimcoco.ie](mailto:waterconservation@leitrimcoco.ie)



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