

WATER TOO TIGHT TO MENTION...

It seems like only yesterday that CWG reported on Thames Water. Well, for some reason that Company is back in the news. We're not really sure why. Some say it was involved in a programme to make Billionaires in Australia, but that doesn't sound like a Water Company's job. It's more likely to be due to some terrific scientific or engineering breakthrough that they've been working on in secret for the last 30 years. Like turning sunshine into rain. Or converting gold into water. Or maybe water into gold.

But today we want to take a closer look at "Thames Water's Top Tips for Saving Water" emailed to lucky customers. This give us a glimpse into the company's high standards. The genuine TIPS are listed below. CWG's comments are in italics.

1 "Use a watering can - By switching to a watering can during spring and summer you can save up to £120 and 45,000 litres of water, that's the same as 571 baths."

Perhaps fine for Babies and Small children. But surely many Adults would have difficulty inserting themselves into the watering can? Almost certainly posing problems for hard pressed emergency and medical services?

2 "Stay hydrated - Always have a cool drink to hand by keeping a full bottle or jug of water in your fridge."

And take the fridge with you wherever you go. Remember to pay attention to public transport reminders to "Take all Your Belongings with You." This obviously includes household appliances.

3 "Set an alarm - Save money on having to re-wash clean laundry by setting an alarm for when the washing machine finishes."

*SO DO NOT LEAVE YOUR HOME FOR ANY REASON! If you miss the alarm you may **have** to re-wash clean laundry. Perhaps you do this routinely already, as Thames Water seems to think you do. Are you really as thick as TW thinks? Or is it us who don't get it?*

4 Turn off the taps - Remember to turn off your taps when washing food or brushing your teeth. Running a tap for one-minute uses 6 litres of water.

The message seems to mean: Keep your taps turned on at all times except when you want to wash food or brush teeth. Really? Perhaps this somehow helps TW fix all its own leaks.

5 Use left-over water - Don't worry about emptying the pool or bucket. Use any left-over paddling pool or bucket water to give your garden a drink.

So can we also take water from the Park Pond in a bucket? But why not use bath, shower and toilet water too? In fact, wouldn't it be easier to shower, pee, etc, on the lawn in the first place? Why not invite your friends and neighbours who don't have gardens to join in? (But not their dogs.) Make a fun party of it. Show off your wealth and keep a (mostly) green lawn!

6 Leave cuttings -Keep moisture in your lawn by leaving mowed grass on your lawn to act as mulch. Dry lawns will soon recover when autumn rain returns.

First, be sure that you have a lawn. Many flat dwellers don't. Make sure you're not one of them. If you're not... Leave mowed grass from the Lawn on the Lawn. It will take Thames Water 3 months to restore water pressure. If your cuttings blow away cut up old newspapers into tiny pieces and spread them on your lawn instead. Weigh each cutting down with a suitable stone and check every morning to replace any that have blown away.

Perhaps turn this into a learning experience by using cuttings from the Business Pages and lay them carefully so they tell a story of how much money Thames Water makes and what it does with it. Find a shady spot to place cuttings revealing how much pollution Water Companies release into our waterways. Invite your neighbours round to read them with you.

The Top Tips overlooked the opportunity for more Practical Advice. Namely:

If you or any of you relatives have been swimming in the Thames Water protected area and been struck by Diarrhoea and Vomiting please help the Company by preserving the 'waste' in buckets and returning it to Headquarters for analysis. All samples would be sure of a ready welcome.

In Conclusion - a Reminder: *'Improving life through water...'*

If you have any queries remember that Water Companies are regulated by Ofwat whose website proudly says, **“Without water, life can't flow smoothly. Ofwat is the economic regulator of the water sector... we're working to improve life through water: keeping water flowing, bills affordable and helping to ensure the health of our rivers and waterways. We're here to ensure water companies do the right thing... making sure our water supplies are secure for future generations. Our work involves overseeing water company performance, driving water companies to meet long term challenges...”**

But remember that Ofwat also says it has just 226 staff to monitor the performance of 17 water companies. So be prepared to wait for a reply.

PS: Last year some of us celebrated the centenary of the death of Marie Lloyd. One of her lesser known songs was the saucy: “He may not be much of a husband, but he's all I could find on the beach.” If she were still with us she might change it to: “I'll get by just fine with no husband. 'Cos I ain't going near Stinky Beach!”