

Chaddesley cares about Planet Earth

This is the time of year that sees an increase in water use. The garden especially can be very thirsty and so this has made me think of water, its uses and its costs.

The water we drink is nearly as old as earth itself and the amount has varied very little over that period. Just think how many times your glass of water must have been drunk or used before!

The water on earth is in different places.

97.5% of it is in the seas and oceans, 2% is ice and 0.5% is fresh.

Of the last, more than half is deep in the rocks and Siberian Lake Baikal, on its own, holds about a third of the total surface water.

This surface water is unevenly spread over the earth so some have too much and some not enough and the ordinary person can do little to change this.

However the world's population continues to grow and demand for water per person is increasing as more people live a "western" lifestyle.

The citizens of Brisbane, Australia have had their water severely rationed for nearly two years because of the drought and the rapid growth of the city.

An article in The Guardian in 2006 read –“The cost of water shortage: civil unrest, mass migration and economic collapse. Analysts see widespread conflicts over water by 2015 but pin their hopes on technology and better management.”

These are amounts and costings provided by Yorkshire Water for household use. This is for cold supply and waste services only.

Use	Gallons	Cost
Garden Hose/sprinkler /per hour	59-178	£1.04-£3.12
Bath	18-33	16-29p
Ordinary shower	7-10	6-9p
Toilet Flush	2-3	2-3p
Washing machine	49-130	10-25p
Dishwasher	14-50	3-10p

Each gallon supplied and treated also uses energy, so saving water has many environmental benefits too.