

Water – a precious resource

Water is life and life without water is not possible.

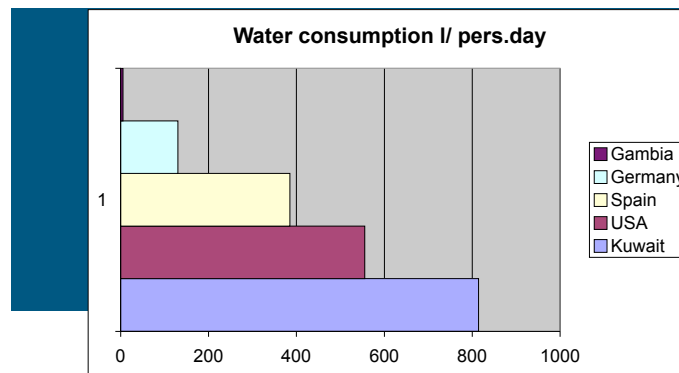
But investigations and studies of UN organisations are predicting water scarcity for 25% of mankind during the next 50 years. Especially around the Mediterranean Sea water problems already exist today and they will precariously increase if we will not implement sustainable ways using the existent water sources.

Therefore 10 partners of universities and other non-profit professional organisations from MEDA partner countries (Morocco, Tunisia, Egypt and Turkey) and the EU countries Italy, Greece, Austria and Germany are working at concepts and technologies to achieve optimised close-loop usage of all water flows in small municipalities or settlements.

The goal is to create a Zero Outflow Municipality (Zero-M), which theoretically does not discharge any waste water. Technical demonstration centres and pilot projects will verify the results.

The project is mainly financed by the Euro-Mediterranean Regional Programme for Local Water Management of the European Union

www.zer0-m.org



Source: Memon & Butler, 2001, WaterSave Network, UK

Local water scarcity or water richness does not say anything about the water consumption in countries. Politics, poverty and public awareness are setting the figures.

Further information

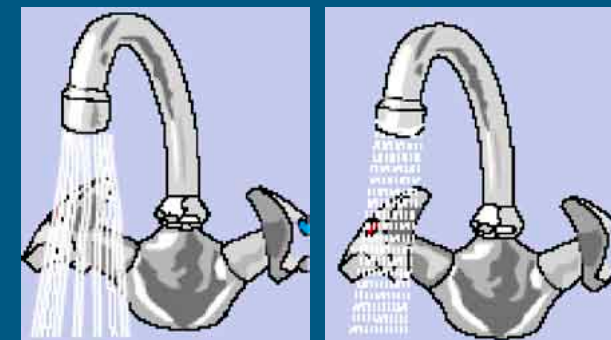
weiterBILDUNG ●

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How to Save Water at Home



www.zer0-m.org

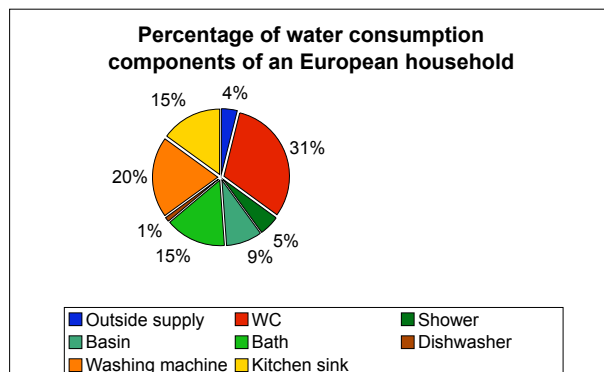


Efficient use of water

How much water a person is using a day – apart from the 2–3 litres he has to drink – depends mainly on his easy access to water. If he got tap water then his consumption will be influenced by the way he is charged for its use: A flat rate or individually by metering.

If he is interested or forced to use water in an efficient way, the types of installed water consuming devices like water closets, bathtubs, washing machines and dishwashers will determine his quantity of used water.

On the market you will find units which differ in their water consumption about 100 % with the same comfort in use. You will find here examples, hints and efficient improvements to reduce your water bill.



Source: Memon & Butler, 2001, WaterSave Network, UK

Water saving at faucets



These small units screwed to the outlet of faucets will soften the water jet by aeration and regulate constantly the flow to a maximum of 5 litres/min independent from the water pressure (5 Euro/piece).

www.neoperl.com

Water saving at showers

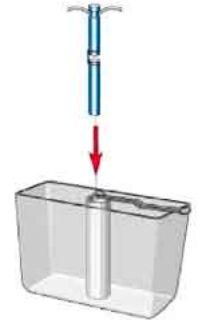


Changing your shower head to a water saving shower head will also soften the water jet and reduce the flow to 9–11 litres/min according to the type installed. The reduction rate will be 40–50 % for water but also for energy if you use warm water (15 Euro/piece).

www.rst-wassersparer.de

Water saving at the WC

Inserting a metal shaft into the overflow of a WC cistern will allow you to flush the bowl as long you press the button: i. e. for urine only the trap water has to be replaced.



Other water saving measures

- Take care of your taps and pipes: i. e. a drippy faucet (one drop per second) will waste 24 litres a day!
- Look at EU Eco labelled A++ when you buy a new washing machine or dishwasher, they are using least water and energy.
- If buying a new WC toilet look for 6 litre flusher with a stop button to interrupt flushing.
- If you don't like to flush your excreta by water, take composting toilets in your consideration: <http://www.cityfarmer.org/comptoilet64.html>.
- Collect rain water and use it for laundering and flushing.
- Still remember that every used drop of water will become wastewater and has to be treated.