



PRESS RELEASE

Conserve Water – It's a Precious Resource

Fingal County Council urges householders, schools and businesses to actively conserve water and to make sure that we don't waste this precious resource. It is possible that during the summer we may have to introduce water restrictions to make sure that everyone has enough water during the day. Water pressure may be reduced or 'throttled' at night in some areas, when the demand is lowest, to allow the reservoirs to fill.

Senior Fingal Water Services Engineer, Lar Spain explains, "The Dublin region, which includes Fingal, gets all its drinking water from a common supply network. Four main water treatment plants, operating at 96% capacity at least, provide the vast bulk of this drinking water, and the combined maximum output of these plants is between 540 and 550 Mgl/day (million litres per day). Under normal circumstances, the average demand in the region is between 530 and 540 Mgl/day meaning on an average day there is between 2% and 4% spare water capacity in the network.

He continues "No matter how much rain falls and finds its way into the lakes and rivers, these water treatment plants have a maximum capacity. Like any food factory they can only produce a certain amount of product every day, no matter how much raw material is available. In our case the raw material is river or lake water and our product is clean, safe, drinking water."

When there is a surge in demand, the levels in the reservoirs drain quicker than they can be refilled, therefore to keep levels sustainable, we may have to throttle or restrict water supply from the reservoirs during the summer months.

Everyone can play a part, by following simple water saving tips, we can conserve this precious resource:

- **Do not** stockpile water by filling baths.
- For cold drinking water, **keep a jug of water in the fridge**, don't run the cold tap.
- **Use a basin of water** to clean fruit and vegetables, don't run the tap.
- **Use a bucket of water** to wash cars and windows, not a hose.
- **NEVER hose your garden** when supplies are restricted
- **Fix leaking taps** and turn off your water supply if you have a burst pipe
- Use appliances such as dishwashers and washing machines only when they are **full**
- **Don't leave** the tap running when you wash your teeth.

Check out www.taptips.ie for more water-saving tips in the home and in the garden.

In the event that water supplies are restricted or disrupted, Fingal County Council publishes Emergency Water Updates at www.fingalcoco.ie, on Aertel P624 and you can follow our updates on twitter.com/fingalcoco.

To report a water burst contact Water Services at 01-890 6210 (Mon-Fri) and 01-873 1415 for After Hours/Emergency.

For further information, please contact Florence White, Communications Officer, Fingal County Council at 087 414 1580 / 01-890 5998 e: Florence.white@fingalcoco.ie

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