

Thames Water Weather Update No.2



22 July 2025

News

From today, the hosepipe ban is live in parts of the Thames Valley including in Swindon and in areas of Oxfordshire, Gloucestershire, Berkshire and Wiltshire. The ban applies to Thames Water customers in the following postcodes – OX, GL, SN, RG4, RG8 and RG9.



Water resources update

Despite some rainfall in the region over the weekend, our water resources position remains similar to that of 2022 (national drought year), although the causes are a bit different. Groundwater levels in the Cotswolds Oolites and Inferior Oolites (aquifers) are much lower than usual, which is affecting the South Oxfordshire area. Despite the ongoing dry conditions, groundwater levels in the Chalk areas are still normal for this time of year, which is helping to maintain river flows downstream outside of the Thames Valley area. However, we received just 61% of the usual rainfall in June, and from March to June, we only had 40% of the average rainfall for that period. This has made the current drought situation more severe. Dry weather, high temperatures, and increased water demand have led to lower river flows, which in turn is reducing the amount of water in reservoirs. As indicated by the regional hosepipe ban, the risk is currently higher in the Thames Valley area compared to London.



What about the rest of the Thames Water area?

We don't currently need to introduce restrictions for London and other areas of our region. However persistent below average rainfall is putting pressure on other areas of our region.

We'll keep a close eye on weather forecasts and reservoir levels as we move through the summer months, and we'll keep customers and stakeholders updated.



Why have we introduced a hosepipe ban across parts of Gloucestershire, Oxfordshire, Berkshire and Wiltshire?

To answer this, and make better sense of the water resources update, it's useful to understand where our water comes from. The water we drink comes from local rivers and underground sources. Farmoor Reservoir is our most important source, and this is filled with water taken from the River Thames. During long dry spells, like

we are experiencing now, flow in the River Thames is provided by groundwater, which keeps the river flowing despite months of little rainfall.

Groundwater is stored naturally in layers of water-bearing rocks called aquifers. Most of rivers joining the Thames upstream of Farmoor receive groundwater from the limestone aquifers. During the sustained hot, dry spell we've experienced this year the limestone aquifers have dropped, and we are seeing lower flows in the River Thames upstream of Farmoor. This means we can't take as much water as we need to keep Farmoor topped up. Along with this we have witnessed extended periods of high usage because of the hot weather and the reservoir level is dropping as a result of these two factors. We will need many weeks of rainfall to recharge the aquifer before we can lift the hosepipe ban.

Hosepipe ban affected area



Every drop counts...

Take shorter showers

Shaving two minutes off the average 10-minute shower saves £73 on water and energy bills a year and 20 litres of water, per person.

Reduce your washes

By reducing the number of weekly washes by two, could save you £46 on water and energy bills

Fix leaky loos

Leaky loos on average waste 200-400 litres a day. It can add £100's to your yearly bill.

No ifs, just butts

Collecting rainwater off your roof into a water butt is a great way to save water. And your plants prefer fresh rainwater over treated water!



Your water
comes from **here**

the less we use, the more there'll be for the environment



Want to save water? Find practical tips at
[thameswater.co.uk/water-saving](https://www.thameswater.co.uk/water-saving)

