

## Thames Water Apply for Drought Order

As reported on the Thames Water website. For full details visit [www.thames-water.com](http://www.thames-water.com):

We are applying to the Government for a Drought Order to enable us to restrict non-essential use of water.

There is currently a ban on the use of hosepipes or sprinklers for the watering of private (i.e. domestic) gardens, or for the washing of private cars, caravans or trailers. It is the first time in 15 years that Thames Water has implemented a ban.

The ban came into effect on Monday 3rd April 2006.

It's hard to believe that the south east is suffering from a drought when the UK is famous for its bad weather. If you think about it though, how many times over the winter did you take an umbrella to work? More or less frequently than usual? And did you know that London receives less rainfall than Istanbul, Rome and Dallas?

### Low rainfall

There is a shortage of water in the Thames Water region because since November 2004 there has been below-average rainfall in every month except two. Last year was the third driest on record - drier even than the drought year of 1976.

### Increased demand

There is also an increasing demand for water - there are more households with a single occupant, and greater use of appliances like power showers and dishwashers. Families, businesses and individuals can make a big difference by using water efficiently. For example, if you switch the tap off while you're brushing your teeth you can save up to six litres of water per minute!

### How you can help

For more water-saving tips, visit our Water Wise website (<http://waterwise.fortune-cookie.com/home/>). The website will also tell you how to order water butts and other water-saving devices, and provides advice on drought-resistant plants for the garden.

### What Thames Water is doing

Here at Thames Water, we are doing everything we can to increase supplies and save water ourselves. We are investing in repairing our pipelines to reduce leakage - so far we've replaced 250 miles of London's mains pipes, many of which were installed in Queen Victoria's reign. We are also developing alternative sources of water.