

HOW CAN YOU HELP OUR CHALK RIVERS?



USE WATER WISELY

There are many simple steps we can all take to help save water. Some examples include:

- Turning off the tap whilst you brush your teeth.
- Taking a quick shower rather than running a bath.
- Installing a water saving device in your toilet cistern.
- Waiting until your washing machine or dish washer is full before turning on.
- Find and repair leaks.
- Fill up the kettle with only as much water as you need

Plus there are many water savvy steps you can take in your garden too! KSCP published a 'Water-Wise Gardening' leaflet which is available to download from our website.



BE AWARE OF FATS, OILS & GREASES



More than 3,000 houses each year are flooded due to fats, oils & greases (FOGs) being poured down the sink and blocking drains. When these substances are poured down the sink, they combine with other items in the drains and over time create large blockages. These barriers increase pressure in the pipes and cause backlogs leading to flooding in gardens, streets and run off heading to rivers.

FOGs can be disposed of by:

- Pouring into empty containers (yoghurt pots, milk cartons etc) and waiting for them to harden. Full containers can then be put into the bin.
- Scraping/wiping out utensils before washing.
- Using sink strainers to catch food waste.

ONLY FLUSH THE 3 PS!

There are only 3 things you should ever flush down the toilet- **Pee, Poo & Paper!**

In the UK, 2 billion non-biodegradable items are flushed down the toilet every year. These include nappies, cotton wool buds, sanitary items and wet wipes.

The latter is one of the biggest causes of blocked pipes- even the wipes claiming to be 'biodegradable' or 'flush friendly' take a long time to break down.

If it is not pee, poo or paper; bag it and bin it!



REPORT POLLUTION



If you see any signs of pollution in or around watercourses please report them to the **Environment Agency emergency hotline- 0800 80 70 60**. Signs may include:

- Water appearing cloudy/murky.
- Strong sewage odour
- Wet wipes, toilet paper, sanitary items etc. visible in water.
- Dead fish or fish gasping for air.

Remember it is better to be safe than sorry- even if you are not sure if it is pollution, it is better to report it than leave it. Become the voice for our precious chalk rivers!

