

Water conservation

After the wettest summer for many years and with parts of the country still reeling from serious flooding, it can be hard to get people to understand the need to conserve water. However, to meet future needs we must maximise water re-use and rainwater harvesting.

Water shortages do not just affect other areas of the world, like Australia or sub-Saharan Africa. Across the UK, climatic change is already creating water supply restrictions on a regular basis while demand from industry and households continues to increase. Also the UK is affected by periods of heavy rainfall, where much of the rain runs straight to rivers.

Political parties (and the regulatory agencies) are focused on threats to our environment and water conservation is becoming a key issue across the UK. As our climate changes, conservation, recycling, harvesting and improved treatment must become a priority for all water users.

Water conservation should not just be the concern of the environmentally conscientious, or people who worry about water bills and wastewater treatment costs.

More joined-up thinking is required, as policy-makers require house builders to follow tighter environmental guidelines, with targets for house building. In addition to reducing household water use, more efficient use of water is a priority in the commercial sector.

To facilitate increased efficiency, H₂O (part of Wright Rain's water solutions business) has developed integrated systems for rainwater harvesting, combined with 'grey water' treatment and recycling for domestic and commercial use.

This process is completely biological, chemical-free and eco-friendly. It treats water to a standard suitable for toilet



flushing, washing machine use, car washing or irrigation.

H₂O's Aquacycle receives grey water from baths, showers and wash water from within the premises. The biological treatment is controlled by a small computer. This back-flushes filters and discharges sediment.

The clarified water is disinfected and pressurised for final use. The unit uses a very small amount of electrical power to provide automation. The only manual maintenance requirement is an annual visit.

To back-up water supply from the Aquacycle, connection can be made to rain harvesting tanks buried outside the building. Water from the Aquacycle can also be used to provide water for garden irrigation.

These tanks are provided by H₂O and sizing is based on water requirement, rainfall and the area water is to be collected from. Water is filtered before feeding the tanks. Then a small pump can feed the Aquacycle or outdoor uses. The system is backed-up with a mains water supply, as the last resort, if there is inadequate rainfall.

Water recycling: Option or imperative? Aquacycle by H₂O

The fully integrated system suits 'new build' designs and complies with sustainability guidelines. Retrofitting the Aquacycle to existing properties is also possible where there is room for the unit in a utility room or garage and the bath or shower waste water can easily be diverted to the unit.

In situations where it is more difficult to re-plumb the recycled water back into the house, this water can be added to rainwater for outdoor uses such as irrigation, topping up pools or car washing.

H₂O's Aquacycle is available in larger units for hotels, blocks of flats, leisure centres and large users of water such as the fire brigade or food businesses.

H₂O is experienced in all aspects of water, pumping, filtration and system design. Its systems are specified to suit specific needs. Technical sales engineers make site visits and teams of H₂O installation engineers carry out installations, service and maintenance contracts throughout the UK.

H₂O can be contacted on the details below for further information.



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