

# Save our Rivers

**Are you water savey?  
Take the quiz to see if you are a water whizz**

## **1. How much water does it take to produce 1 pair of jeans?**

Answer: It takes 1800 gallons of water to grow the cotton to produce 1 pair of blue jeans (Tree Hugger). Include dying the fabric and the manufacturer of the garment it's closer to 2000 gallons. That's more than a ton of cement or a barrel of beer!!

On top of this 20% of global industrial water pollution can be tied to garment manufacturing (World Resources Institute).

However there are companies making a difference, Levis recently manufactured 100,000 pairs of jeans using 100% recycled water with one of its chinese suppliers (Levis).

**What can you do?** Why not buy secondhand clothes from charity shops, retro stores or clothes swaps. If you have to buy new consider companies that are more sustainable , like Levis, or that use organic cotton or even bamboo.

## **2. How much water does a mature oak tree take up in one year?**

Answer: In general a healthy 30m tree has about 200,000 leaves. A tree this size can take 11,000 gallons of water from the soil and release it into the air again, as oxygen and water vapour, in a growing season (fs.usda.gov). Of course water use will depend on many conditions - humidity, temperature, stress, size of tree, species of tree - to name just a few. Trees also trap carbon, a mature tree can absorb carbon dioxide at a rate of 48 pounds per year (tenmilliontrees)

**What can you do?** Plant a tree!! Volunteer with a local organisation to create habitat. Just within one of the Ouse & Adur River trust projects we have planted 6000 trees this year, the EPIC project in Sompting is a great example of how natural flood alleviation schemes can be put into practice.



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## **3. Name three permeable materials suitable for paved areas and driveways.**

Answer: It might be easier to start with what IS NOT considered to be permeable. A surface that does not allow water to pass through the surface is considered to be impermeable - tarmac, concrete, and almost every sort of block or flag paving which are secured with cement. The easiest option for permeable drives is of course grass but that is not always practical so gravel is another good option. Many manufacturers have also responded to the need for permeable driveways by producing new versions of block and flag paving which increase the gaps between the stones to 6-8mm. These gaps are then filled with a loose aggregate which allows water to flow between. Another great option for the garden path is woodchip which also provides additional habitat within your garden, great for insects.

**What can you do?** Before you resurface your drive or patio consider how water will move through the surface. Do a little research and find a new alternative, there are many options out there.

## **4. Other than watering plants, name three other things rainwater could be used for?**

Answer: Washing the car using a bucket and sponge, pet drinking water, washing the patio, cleaning the wheelie bin, cleaning your wellie boots, washing off garden equipment, washing down greenhouse glass ..... with a little imagination rain water can be used for many many things - before reaching for the hose think "can this be done with a bucket?" if yes it can be done with rain water.

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## **5. According to the met office records, how many record breaking rainfall months have there been since the year 2000?**

Answer: The climate is changing there is no doubt about this, rainfall is increasing. Met Office records show that since 1910 there have been 17 record breaking rainfall months or seasons - 9 of them since 2000!!

I don't think we can argue that the weather is changing, rainfall is increasing which will cause intense bouts of flooding which are set to become more frequent (Environment Agency 2020). As intense storms are becoming more frequent, sea levels are also rising because of climate change (Environment Agency 2020).

## **6. In what year was the driest month on record?**

Answer: July 2019 was the hottest month on record for the planet during which the Arctic and Antarctic sea ice also shrank to historic lows (NOAA). It was the hottest July in 140 years, the previous hottest month on record was July 2016. Nine of the 10 hottest Julys have occurred since 2005 (NOAA).

## **7. Name three gardening techniques to save water**

Answer: We can do much better than three!!

Fit a water butt, Don't water the lawn, Spread mulch around plants to reduce evaporation, Use water from the kitchen sink or bath to water the garden, Water the plants using a watering can, Water the plants in the evening, Water the roots of the plant, Buy drought resistant plants, Have less pots. Can you think of any more?

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## **8. If you leave the tap running when you brush your teeth - how much water do you waste a year, if you brush your teeth for 2 minutes?**

Answer: According to waterwise.org a running tap wastes over 6 litres per minute. Therefore, if an adult brushes their teeth the NHS recommended twice a day for two minutes they could be wasting 24 litres of water a day.

One in three people leave the tap on when they brush their teeth - the UK population is almost 67.5 million adults, nationally we could be wasting 54000000000 litres of water a day!!

**What can you do?** Turn off the tap. Ensure everyone you know turns off the tap. Ensure everyone they know turns off the tap. One person does make a difference. Think water, think waste.

We hope you have found this quiz fun and informative, if you have any further questions or you are interested in the work we do then please follow us on facebook and twitter and get in touch.



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