

### Where does our water come from?



Rain water flows into rivers and is stored in dams. From the dams it is piped to a water purification works, where it goes through a treatment process.

### Is river or dam water safe to drink?



River or dam water is not safe to drink. After the purification process water is stored in reservoirs. We monitor the water to make sure that it is safe to drink.

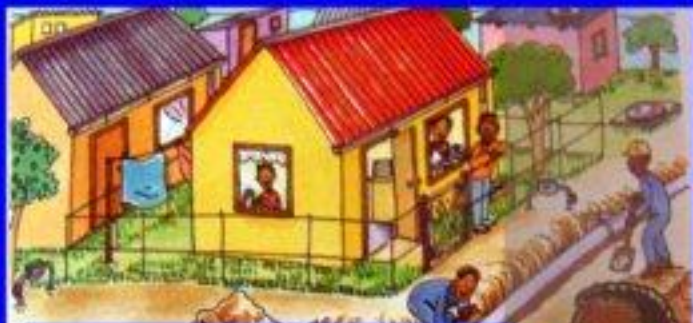
### What happens to water used in my house?



Used water (sewage) from our house flows in pipes (sewers) to the sewage treatment works. Here it is cleaned before it flows back into our rivers and out to sea.

## The Water Cycle

### How does the water get to my house?



Water from the purification works comes to my house through a network of pipes. The council looks after the pipes in the street. I look after the pipes from the meter to my house, and also the pipes and fittings in my house.

### How can I keep my water bills low?



I check my meter and take readings regularly. We don't let the tap or toilet drip or leak. I make sure that leaks are repaired immediately, otherwise I have to pay for water that is wasted.

## Personal Guide To Water Conservation

1. Read your water meter regularly and keep track of your water usage.
2. Make sure you know where your stop cock valve is, so you can shut off water quickly if you have a burst water pipe.
3. Put a solid object e.g. small sealed plastic bottle in the cistern to reduce the amount of water used when flushing.
4. Make sure the toilet flush handle does not stick after flushing.
5. When washing dishes, do not let the water run while rinsing. Rather use a sink or dish with rinse water.
6. Soak pots and pans before washing them instead of running water while you scrub them.
7. Put a container under house gutters to collect rainwater for watering the garden.
8. Plug the bath tub before turning the water on. Do not run the water down the drain while waiting for it to heat up.



9. Keep showers short and turn off when soaping. A shower uses 10 litres per minute.
10. Turn off the water when you brush your teeth. Use a glass of water instead to rinse after brushing.
11. Teach everyone to turn off taps tightly after use and replace washers when the tap is dripping. A slow dripping tap wastes over 1500 litres (10 bath tubs) of water a month.
12. Do not turn taps on to the full. 1/2 inch taps use 9 litres per minute. 3/4 inch taps use 15 litres per minute.
13. Do not wash your car with a running hose. Use a bucket. Wash your car on the lawn or another area needing water.
14. Always water your garden or vegetable plot during the evenings when the temperatures are cool, to minimize evaporation.
15. Use a bucket to water vegetable gardens instead of a hose pipe.
16. Use a layer of mulch around plants to reduce evaporation, promote plant growth and reduce weeds.



Immediately report any broken pipes, open hydrants or water leaks in your street or suburb to these Bulawayo numbers:  
Working Hours: 09-60408, 65573,  
After Hours: 09-77331