



DroughtBuster™

Innovative new product set to save gardens during the hosepipe ban

Launched today, DroughtBuster is an elegant solution to the hosepipe ban. Based on siphon technology, DroughtBuster moves water from the bath to the garden, easily, cleanly and affordably.

The brainchild of two friends who wanted to save their gardens whilst doing their bit for the planet, DroughtBuster helps keep plants and shrubs alive during the drought by recycling used bathwater.

DroughtBuster is not only a green solution for optimising water use, but incredibly simple to operate. A few squeezes of the hand pump starts the process and then atmospheric pressure takes over, causing the bath to empty itself in minutes. Fitted with a universal connector, DroughtBuster can be attached to any standard hosepipe to take the water wherever it is needed: directly onto the garden or into a water butt.

DroughtBuster developers Antonia Lord and Louise Angus have been delighted by reaction to the product. *“Frustration at putting my baby’s bathwater down the drain whilst the garden was parched has led to a product that has really caught the imagination”* says Louise Angus. Antonia Lord explains *“People now see recycling as part of their daily lives and DroughtBuster allows them to reuse water easily to save the investment in their gardens.”*

DroughtBuster costs £19.99, including P&P. Available from www.droughtbuster.co.uk or by calling 0870 803 1255 or sending a cheque made payable to DroughtBuster to 20 Riverview Gardens, London, SW13 8QY.

Product images for publication can be found at www.droughtbuster.co.uk/press

For further information or interviews call:

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Information for Editors

The hosepipe ban

There are currently 13 million people in the UK subject to a hosepipe ban.

The south of England is currently experiencing the driest period since 1933, with low rainfall over the last two winters. It is widely expected that these drought conditions will persist.

The following water company areas have been subject to a hosepipe ban since 3rd April 2006: Southern Water, Thames Water, South East Water, Three Valleys Water, Mid Kent Water, Sutton and East Surrey Water, Folkestone and Dover.

Gardens

Over £850m is spent on plants in Britain each year.

An average planted garden (200 sq meters) evaporates about 4,820 litres every 10 days during the height of the summer.

Grey water

Grey water is the term used for waste water from baths, showers, washing machines and washing up that would normally go down the drain. It can however be recycled and used elsewhere.

There is a long established history of using grey water for watering plants. In many countries, especially in North America and Australia, it is a regular occurrence.

The BBC Gardening team is using both grey water and natural rain water on parts of the BBC garden this year.

Water going down the drain

A typical bath uses about 88 litres of water. The average person has 109 baths per year (0.3 per day) according to DEFRA.

It is estimated that some 80% of showers in main bathrooms are installed over baths (13.5m households). If you put the plug in, a normal shower will yield about 30 litres of water.

An average water butt holds around 180 litres of water. A water butt can be replenished by the waste water from two baths or six showers.

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