

# n large families?



## THE MAHERS

2 ADULTS, 13 CHILDREN

ACTIVITY	WEEKLY USE	YEARLY USE	ANNUAL LITRES
A seven minute power shower - 175 litres.	63	3,276	573,300
One full bath - 80 litres.	10	520	41,600
A single use of the dishwasher - between 45 and 65 litres of water.	7	364	20,020
A sink full of dishes - 10 litres.	21	1,092	10,920
A single use of the washing machine - 95-LITRE INDUSTRIAL WASHING MACHINE.	14	728	69,160
One cooked meal - half a litre of water.	21	1,092	546
Litres consumed (drink)	38	1,976	1,976
Brushing your teeth with the tap running for 2 minutes - 12 litres of water.	196	10,192	122,304
Flushing the toilet once - 9 litres of water.	574	29,848	268,632
Water used playing with children	1	52	52

**PAYMENT**  
The total annual litres used by the Maher family was 1,108,510, and when the 30,000 litres of free water allowance and the 13 free allowances of 21,000 litres for each child was reduced this annual figure is 805,510. With the payment rate being €4.88 per 1,000 litres, this means that the Maher family will pay **€3,930**



Big bill: Jane Shanahan fills the kettle

## THE SHANAHANS

4 ADULTS, 1 CHILD

ACTIVITY	WEEKLY USE	YEARLY USE	ANNUAL LITRES
A seven minute power shower - 175 litres.	39	2,028	354,900
One full bath - 80 litres.	0	0	0
A single use of the dishwasher - between 45 and 65 litres of water.	21	1,092	60,060
A sink full of dishes - ten litres.	0	0	0
A single use of the washing machine - between 45 and 65 litres of water.	21	1,092	60,060
One cooked meal - half a litre of water.	21	1,092	546
Litres consumed (drink).	10	520	520
Brushing your teeth with the tap running for 2 minutes - 12 litres of water.	70	3,640	43,680
Flushing the toilet once - nine litres of water.	175	9,100	81,900
Water used playing with children (and miscellaneous).	2	104	104

**PAYMENT** The total annual litres used by the Shanahan family was 601,770. When the 30,000 litres of free water allowance and the one free allowances of 21,000 litres for one of their children was taken away, this annual billable usage is 550,770 litres. With the cost at €4.88 per 1,000 litres, this means that the Shanahan family will pay **€2,688**

## FAMILY

TWO ADULTS, TWO CHILDREN

WEEKLY USE	YEARLY USE	ANNUAL LITRES
19	988	172,900
4	208	16,640
7	364	20,020
7	364	3,640
4	208	11,440
7	364	182
28	1,456	1,456
56	2,912	34,944
112	5,824	52,416
5	260	260

**PAYMENT**  
The total annual litres used by the Haugh family was 313,898, and when the 30,000 litres of free water allowance and the two free allowances of 21,000 litres for each child was reduced this annual figure is 241,898. With the payment rate being €4.88 per 1,000 litres, this means that the Haugh family will pay **€1,180**



Cost of a holiday: Laura Haugh with children Lucy and James

## 'If packs aren't sent in, the full rate will be charged'

IRISH Water has warned that householders who don't return their application packs by the end of this month will have their allowances withdrawn and will be charged at the full rate applied to houses with two adults of €278.

A spokesman for the company has also said customers who refuse to pay once bills arrive in early January will have their water cut to a trickle. Irish Water estimates every home in the country will have received its application pack by tomorrow.

The last batch of more than two million packs were mailed to householders this week but Irish Water is urging anyone who has not yet received one to contact its helpline on 1890 448 448.

'If people don't send in the pack they will automatically be billed the full tariff based on two

By **Kevin Keane**

adults with no allowances,' a spokesman said.

'In this instance we will hope that people will be honest and if your payment is less than what it should be then other water users are being penalised so we are hoping that people wouldn't go down that road.'

The spokesman said it was too early to talk about further enforcement action against people who don't return their packs but she said people who refuse to pay will be treated more harshly. Customers who have difficulty making their payments will be treated with patience and will be allowed to pay on the basis of monthly instalments.

Protests were held yesterday in Dublin and Galway on the first day of metering for water.

The 'We Won't Pay' campaign group handed out free water and returned their application packs to Irish Water. Anti-Austerity Alliance member Paul Murphy said the vast majority of people have so far not returned the application packs from Irish Water properly filled out.

'There is a revolt against water charges already taking place. People are increasingly aware that the Irish Water estimates of bills are completely bogus, and that once the nine month cap is over, average families will face bills for €500, with four adult families facing bills of €900,' he claimed.

Mr Murphy said the application packs which were returned to Irish Water had been given to campaigners in protest against water charges.

'The key question will be what people do when the bills land in January... These charges can be beaten by high levels of non-payment, combined with active protest and political pressure.'

## You can look but not touch

HOUSEHOLDERS have been warned it is an offence to tamper with their water meter - but they can take a reading.

Irish Water has said people are allowed to read their own meter as long as they do not interfere with the device.

Tens of thousands of houses already have meters outside their homes on the public footpath. The process of installing the devices will be 80 per cent completed by the end of 2016.

Readings will be taken quarterly by Irish Water vans which will pick up low-level radio signals from the meters as they drive by.