



Saving Our Water-One Drop at a Time

- When washing dishes by hand, do not let the water run. Fill one basin with wash water and the other with rinse water.
- Designate one glass for your drinking water each day or refill a water bottle. This will cut down on the number of glasses to wash.
- Wash your fruits and vegetables in a pan of water instead of running water from the tap.
- Keep a pitcher of drinking water in the refrigerator instead of running the tap. This way, every drop goes down you and not the drain.
- If you accidentally drop ice cubes, do not throw them in the sink. Drop them in a house plant instead.
- When doing laundry, match the water level to the size of the load.
- Washing dark clothes in cold water saves water and energy, and helps your clothes retain their color.
- Shorten your shower by a minute or two.
- Time your shower to keep it under 5 minutes.
- Turn off the water while you brush your teeth.
- Turn off the water while washing your hair.
- When washing your hands, turn the water off while you lather.
- Take 5-minute showers instead of baths.
- Drop tissues in the trash instead of flushing them and save water every time.
- One drip every second adds up to five gallons per day! Check your faucets and showerheads for leaks.
- Turn off faucets tightly after each use.
- When the kids want to cool off, use the sprinkler in an area where your lawn needs it most.
- Encourage your school system and local government to develop and promote water conservation among children and adults.
- Play fun games while learning how to save water!
- Monitor your water bill for unusually high use. Your bill and water meter are tools that can help you discover leaks.
- Learn how to use your water meter to check for leaks.
- Reward kids for the water-saving tips they follow.
- Avoid recreational water toys that require a constant flow of water.
- Be a leak detective! Check all hoses, connectors, and faucets regularly for leaks.
- See a leak you cannot fix? Tell a parent, teacher, employer, or property manager, or call a handyman.
- At home or while staying in a hotel, reuse your towels.
- Make suggestions to your employer or school about ways to save water and money.
- Run your washer and dishwasher only when they are full. You can save up to 1,000 gallons a month.
- Do not overfill the pool. Lower water levels will reduce water loss due to splashing.
- Keep water in the pool when playing, it will save water.
- Use a hose nozzle or turn off the water while you wash your car. You will save up to 100 gallons every time.
- Wash your pets outdoors, in an area of your lawn that needs water.
- When cleaning out fish tanks, give the nutrient-rich water to your non-edible plants.
- When you give your pet fresh water, do not throw the old water down the drain. Use it to water your trees or shrubs.
- Use a broom instead of a hose to clean patios, sidewalks, and driveways, and save water every time.



Fun Facts -- Did you know?

- Water could be the key to finding life.

- 💧 There are not many qualities that are true of all life on Earth, but the need for water is one of them. It is in all living things, whether they live at the bottom of the ocean or the driest desert. Water made life possible on Earth. Because of this, astrobiologists (scientists who search for life on other planets) think our best bet for finding life is to search for water.
- 💧 Almost all Earth's water is in the oceans.
- 💧 A whopping 96.5 percent of water on Earth is in our oceans, covering 71 percent of the surface of our planet. And at any given time, about 0.001 percent is floating above us in the atmosphere. If all that water fell as rain at once, the whole planet would get about 1 inch of rain.
- 💧 Most freshwater is in ice.
- 💧 Just 3.5 percent of Earth's water is fresh—that is, with few salts in it. You can find Earth's freshwater in our lakes, rivers, and streams, but do not forget groundwater and glaciers. Over 68 percent of Earth's freshwater is locked up in ice and glaciers. And another 30 percent is in groundwater.
- 💧 The amount of salt in salt water varies.
- 💧 In a gallon of average ocean water, there is about 1 cup of salt. But it does vary. The Atlantic Ocean is saltier than the Pacific Ocean, for instance. Most of the salt in the ocean is the same kind of salt we put on our food: sodium chloride. The saltiest water in the world is found in Antarctica in a small lake named Don Juan Pond.
- 💧 A lot can live in one drop of water.
- 💧 There can be a lot going on in a single drop of ocean water. It will most likely have millions (yes, millions!) of bacteria and viruses. And it could also have fish eggs, baby crabs, plankton, or even small worms.
- 💧 Some water may have come from comets.
- 💧 The rocky material that formed Earth contained some water. But that probably does not account for all the water we see today. Comets are mostly water ice. It is possible that comets made regular water deliveries to Earth. It would take a lot of comets to fill the ocean, but comets could well have made a big contribution.
- 💧 It is great that ice floats.
- 💧 Usually when solids form, atoms get closer together to form something denser. Therefore, most solids sink in water. But solid water, or ice, is less dense. This is unusual. The water molecules form rings when water freezes. All that space makes ice less dense. Therefore, it floats. This is great because ice floating on top of a body of water lets the rest of it stay liquid. If ice sank, whole oceans could freeze solid!
- 💧 Our bodies are mostly water.
- 💧 A newborn baby is 78 percent water. Adults are 55-60 percent water. Water is involved in just about everything our body does. It is a big part of the blood that brings nutrients to all our cells. We use it to get rid of wastes. It helps us regulate our body temperature. It acts as a shock absorber for our brain and spinal cord. We are very dependent on water.
- 💧 In plants, water defies gravity.
- 💧 Water has an interesting characteristic. It is sort of "sticky." It likes to stick to itself and other things. That is why water forms round droplets. Not all liquids do that. This "stickiness" helps get water from the roots of plants up to the leaves. Water molecules travel up thin straws called xylem in the plant by holding onto each other and the walls of the tube. They are pulled upwards as water evaporates from the leaves at the top.
- 💧 We get to see water in three different states, and that is odd.
- 💧 We experience water in all three states: solid ice, liquid water, and gas water vapor. That is unusual. While all substances can be solid, liquid, or gas, a lot of them only change states at extreme temperatures. You probably do not see liquid silver or solid oxygen very much because their melting points and freezing points are at temperatures that would kill us.

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