

Let's Save Water!

Every living thing on earth, every plant and every creature, needs water to survive. You might feel solid but more than half your body weight comes from water! Has anyone ever told you to drink at least 2 litres (one big bottle) of water every day? We need to do this to top up the water levels in our bodies. Every day we lose about 2 litres of this precious liquid through our skin and lungs, urine and faeces.

Look at a map of the world and you will see that there is a great deal of water on our planet, but 97% of this is seawater, and seawater is salty. Most plants and creatures need fresh water, and most of our planet's fresh water is frozen in the polar icecaps. We can only use 1 % of all the water on our planet for our daily lives – to drink, grow food, keep clean and make things like cars and computers. All this water comes from rivers and lakes and rocks that are porous (can absorb water) and can store water underground. This water is very precious and we need to find ways not to waste it!

1. How much water comes out of your tap?

What you will need:

- A large bowl (if you are using the sink rather than the bath for your experiment this is not essential)
- A measuring jug which measures millilitres and litres - if you don't have one, use an empty milk carton or plastic bottle
- A timer (clock or stopwatch)

What to do:

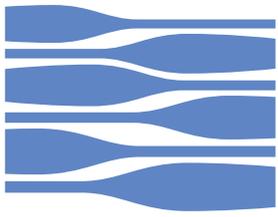
- Put a large bowl in the bath or the sink and turn on the tap fully for 6 seconds then switch it off.
- Measure the amount of water you've collected using your measuring jug. Round up your measurement to the nearest half litre (500 ml). If you are using a 1 litre or 2 litre milk carton or water bottle, you'll need to estimate the fraction of your container that is full to work this out.
- Multiply the number you get by 10. You now have an estimate for the amount of water flowing out of your tap in one minute (60 seconds).
- Record your results

Amount of water flowing from my tap in 6 seconds is _____ litres

Amount of water flowing from my tap in 1 minute is _____ litres

Now you are ready to begin your water log!





2. Keeping a water log

Use the table My Water Log to record how many seconds you run the tap when you carry out your everyday activities.

In the final column you will need to use your results to work out how much water you used. To make this calculation easier, round up your measured time to the nearest half minute (30 seconds) or if the time was very short, the nearest multiple of 6 seconds (use your 6 times table to help!).

Remember you can write the fraction $\frac{1}{2}$ as the decimal 0.5 so $2\frac{1}{2}$ is 2.5

Here is an example

Amount of water flowing from my tap in **6 seconds = 2 litres**

Amount of water flowing from my tap in **1 minute** (60 (10 x 6) seconds) is 10 x 2 litres = **20 litres**

Time of day	Activity	Time the tap was running (measured in minutes/seconds)	Time the tap was running (rounded to nearest half minute or multiple of 6)	Amount of water used (litres)
7.30 am	washed face	13 secs	12 secs	2 (litres) x 2 (lots of 6 seconds) = 4 litres
9.00 am	had shower	2 mins 25 secs	2.5 mins	20 (litres per minute) x 2.5 (number of minutes) = 50 litres

Now start logging!

3. Saving water

Use your table to help you think of ways you can conserve water every day! Here are some ideas to get you started:

- Turn off the tap when you are cleaning your teeth
- Don't leave taps dripping
- Take a shower rather than a bath if you can
- Use a watering can in the garden not a hose
- If you have water left in your glass or water bottle, give it to the plants not the drains

How many ideas can you think of?

Whenever you save water, you help to look after our planet!



