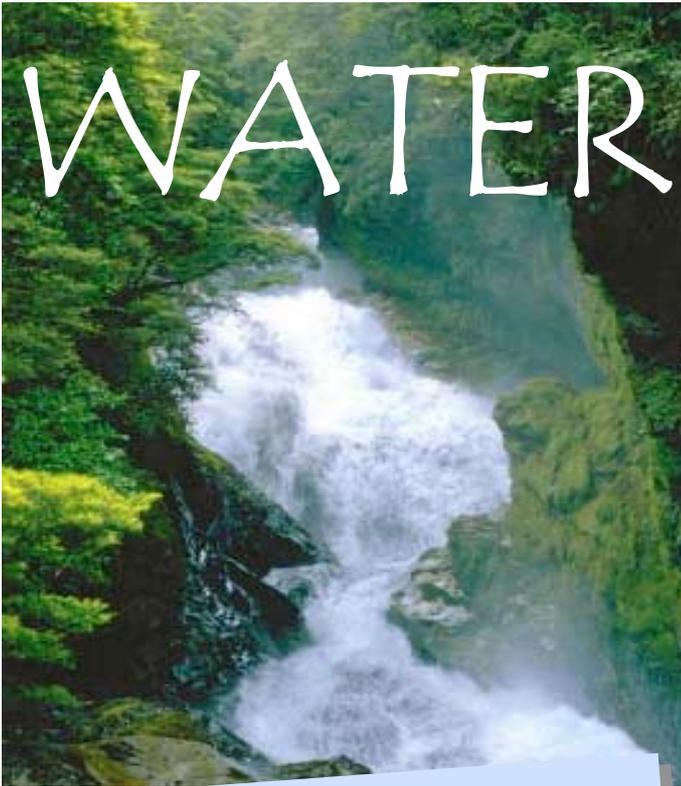


# Conservation



We often don't appreciate what is plentiful and easy to obtain. Water is a perfect example. Just turn on the tap and there it is, ready to use. But clean water is precious. It hasn't magically appeared. It has been carefully treated and piped to our home at great expense. 

Of all the water in the world, only 1% is available for human use. The rest of the world's water is either salty or locked in glaciers and ice caps. This 1% is used not only by us humans for drinking water but is also used for agriculture, manufacturing, household and sanitation needs. We drink very little of our "drinking water". Most of it waters lawns, washes our clothes and goes down our toilets and drains.

 When water is saved it also saves in other ways. By reducing your use of water over all less water needs storing, cleaning and distributing. By reducing your use of hot water you reduce the energy needed to heat the water, reducing energy bills. 

In many cases it is easy to reduce your use of water. It is mostly common sense and a matter of taking the time to think about how you use it. Get your whole family involved.

## Using Water Wisely

### WATER FACTS...

- The capacity of the average kitchen sink is 3.5 gallons (16 litres). Running your tap for two minutes can use a sinkful of water.
- Having a bath uses 30 gallons (136 litres) of water.
- A shower uses just 8 gallons (36 litres).
- The average washing machine with a full load uses 16.5 gallons (75 litres).
- The average dishwasher uses 4.5 gallons (20 litres).
- A leaking tap can waste up to 20 gallons (90 litres) of water a day.
- If you leave a tap running while washing your teeth, you waste as much as 3 gallons (14 litres).
- A running garden hose uses 4 gallons (18 litres) of water a minute.

## How Can You Help?

- Have a shower instead of a bath, they use less than half the amount of water.
- Always fill the washing machine and dishwasher before you use it to make the most of the water.
- If there is a leaking tap in your house ask an adult to fix it. If a tap is left leaking for a year it could fill a bath 52 times.
- When you brush your teeth remember to turn off the tap until you need to rinse.
- When you help to wash the car use a bucket instead of a hose. If a hose is left running for a long time it will waste a lot of water.
- Whenever you can use a watering can in the garden to water the flowers, it means water will not be wasted.
- Try and buy environmentally friendly cleaning products. remember that everything you wash down the drain goes in the rivers and sea.

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