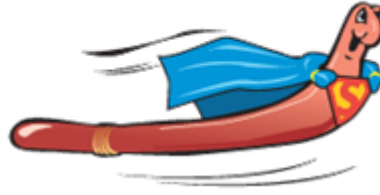


2014 “Earthworms” Youth Eco-Teams Program



Thank you for participating in the Water Unit!

Next week we will make some Eco-Friendly Crafts!

How to Reduce Direct Water Use

Let's take a look at how much water you use in a normal day. Use the following chart to figure out how many gallons of water you use to complete everyday tasks.



Action	Gallons of Water Used
Brushing your teeth (with water running)	3 gallons per minute
Flushing the toilet	5 gallons
Taking a shower	5 gallons a minute (50 gallons for a 10 minute shower)
Washing Dishes under running water	30 gallons
Washing clothes	37 gallons per load

Make sure you turn the water off! The water should not be running while you brush your teeth but only to wet the toothbrush before brushing and then rinsing after brushing.

Time those showers! Just a few minutes makes a big difference for saving water!

How much water do you use? If you brush your teeth, take a 10 minute shower and use the restroom three times in a day you've used almost 70 gallons of water—and that's without even helping with any chores! Are you surprised?



Indirect Water Use

Reducing the amount of water we use directly is an important step toward conserving water. However, we also have to consider our indirect water use.



When you are using paper to do your schoolwork, eating a hamburger for lunch, or reading a webpage on a computer, it may not seem like there is any water involved. But in order to make the paper, the hamburger and the computer, the manufacturer used a LOT of water.

Take a look at how much water is needed to make some things we use every day:

1 sheet of paper	2.5 gallons
1 pound of steel (used to make things like cans)	31 gallons
1 pound of plastic (used to make things like pop bottles)	70 gallons
1 gallon of gasoline	70 gallons
1 pair of jeans	1,800 gallons
1 pound of hamburger	2,464 gallons
1 desktop computer	7,300 gallons
1 car	65,000 gallons

Can you believe it? We can't control how much water is used to make these items, but we can make every effort to reduce our use of these products in order to conserve water. See the tips below for decreasing indirect water usage:

One of the best ways to conserve water is to buy recycled goods, and to recycle your stuff when you're done with it. Or, stick to buying only what you really need.

Recycling a pound of paper, less than the weight of your average newspaper, saves about 3.5 gallons of water!

