

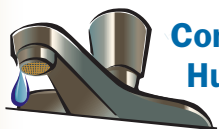
# It's Your Environment: Protect It!

## Lesson Three: Oklahoma's Water

### Water Facts

- Earth has an abundance of water, but 97% of the water on earth is salt water in the oceans. The remaining 3% is fresh water but 68.7% of the water is trapped in glaciers.
- Approximately **44 BILLION** gallons of water are used for drinking in the United States **EVERY DAY!**
- The human body is 55-78% water.
- A running toilet can waste up to **200** gallons of water per day.

**Do you hear a drip? All those drips add up fast, 10,000 drips = 1 gallon of water. In the average household, 10 gallons per day is lost to leaks!**



### Conduct a Drip Scavenger Hunt to track down those water wasters!

1. Take a walk through the whole house, looking and listening as you travel from room to room. Use the list to the right to help you keep tabs as you go.
2. Check the box if you find a drip or a leak.
3. If you find a drip, time how many drips happen in one minute using your watch. Record your findings on the chart. If you find a pipe that is wet, but not dripping, make note of that, too.

**If a faucet leaks at the rate of one drip per second, how many gallons of water will it waste in one year?**

**Which of these activities uses the MOST water per day in the average home?**

- A. Running the tap while washing dishes
- B. Using the garbage disposal
- C. A leaky toilet
- D. Long Showers

**Which of these everyday household items is a water-saving tool?**

- A. A bucket
- B. A clock
- C. A broom
- D. All of the above

✓	Location of Drip	Drips per minute
	Kitchen	
	Faucet	
	Pipes under the sink	
	Bathroom(s)	
	Faucet	
	Shower	
	Bath Tub	
	Outside	
	Hose/Faucet	
	Sprinklers	

### Harvesting the rain

Did you know that 600 gallons of water can be captured for every inch of rain that falls in 1,000 square feet of catchment area?

Did you know that storm water runoff is the leading type of residential non-point source pollution?

During the summer months, it is estimated that 30 percent of household water is used for lawn and garden maintenance. A rain barrel collects water and stores it for those times that you need it most – during the dry summer months. Using rain barrels also helps homeowners lower water bills. Rain is naturally soft and devoid of minerals, chlorine, fluoride, and other harmful chemicals. The chemicals and hard water from many of our municipal water systems can add to chemical imbalances in soil and damage sensitive plants. Water collected from the roofs of houses picks up very little contamination, and is very healthy for plant life.

Rain barrels are becoming increasingly available at local home improvement and gardening centers. With some elbow grease and a few materials you can build your own out of a 35-55 gallon trash can. See the instructions (courtesy of the Cleveland County Conservation District) at <http://www.clevelandcountyconservationdistrict.com/trashcanrainbarrels.pdf>

**More information about rain barrels can be found in the DEQ brochure "Rain Barrels and Cisterns. Saving Rain for Thirsty Gardens" at: <http://www.deq.state.ok.us/pubs/wqd/RainBarrels.pdf>**



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