

# Every Drop Counts!

Nothing can live without water. Plants, animals, and people need water to drink. Some plants and animals even live in water! Water helps us grow food, stay clean, and run machines that make items like clothes and books.

Most of Earth is covered by water. Most of it is salt water. Only some of Earth's water is fresh water, the kind we use in our daily lives. And it can run out. Luckily there are lots of easy ways you can save water.







Brushing your teeth with the tap on can use more than 1 gallon of water per minute!

## Use Less

One easy way to save water is to use less of it. A great place to start is in the bathroom. When you brush your teeth, turn off the tap while you scrub. Then turn it back on to swish and rinse. Do the same thing when you wash your hands.



It takes 16 cartons of milk from the school cafeteria to equal one gallon.



You can also save water when you wash your body. Taking a bath is a big water waster. It can take more than 35 gallons of water to fill a bathtub. A shower uses 2 to 5 gallons of water every minute. If you took a five-minute shower instead of a bath, you could save at least 10 gallons!



Waiting for the water to heat up? Catch the cold water in a bucket and use it to water plants!

More than half of all indoor water use happens in the bathroom!





Make one water glass your “glass for the day” instead of using a new one each time you are thirsty. Then you will not have to wash as many dishes!

To save water while washing dishes, fill two dish basins with water. Use one to wash the dishes and one to rinse. If you do not have any basins, first wet the dishes. Turn off the water while you scrub. Then turn the water on to rinse. That will use a lot less water.



Dishwashers can save water, too. Some use as little as 3 gallons of water for one load.