



Human Impacts on the Environment Activity for Kids

Calculating Water Use DIY

 Duration: **15-30 min**

 Difficulty: **Medium**

 Cost: **\$0 to \$20**

Learn how to calculate the amount of water you use in an entire year!

Material List

- 1** Large measuring container
- 1** Stopwatch
- 1** Calculator
- 1** Shower or sink

Instructions

- 1** Start by collecting water from your shower (or sink) into the container for exactly 6 seconds.
- 2** Take that measurement and multiply it by 10 to calculate how much water you used each minute the shower was on.
- 3** Then use the stopwatch to calculate how long your shower takes. You can also just estimate this number.
- 4** Take the number of minutes and multiply it by the amount of water your shower puts out each minute (from step 2). That tells you how much water you use each time you shower.
- 5** To find out how much water you use for showering in a year, multiply the number from step 4 by the number of days in a year (365.25).

How It Works

Water is an important natural resource. While most of the Earth is covered in water, less than 1% of it is fresh water found in lakes and rivers. In this DIY we calculated how much water we use yearly by measuring how much water comes out of a showerhead per minute. To make sure there is enough of this natural resource for everyone, it is best to take shorter showers and turn off the water when brushing your teeth. Conserving water is just one way to reduce our impact on the environment.