

Saving water

Most people do not know that there are many easy ways to save water.

Here are 25 ways to save water. Choose 5 of these and make up a poster to help the people in your home know how easy it is to save water.

1. Run the dishwasher and the washing machine only when they are full.
2. Don't pre-rinse dishes before loading the dishwasher.
3. When you only have a few things to wash, wash dishes by hand.
4. Wash vegetables and fruits in a bowl, not in a sink with running water.
5. Put used water on plants, such as water used to clean vegetables. (But do not use water with detergent in it.)
6. Steam vegetables instead of boiling.
7. Chill drinking water in the refrigerator instead of running the tap until the water is cold.
8. When you buy a new dishwasher, choose it for its water saving and energy saving values.
9. When you buy a new washing machine, choose it for its water saving and energy saving values.
10. Stop any leaking taps or leaking toilet flushes.
11. Turn off the tap when brushing your teeth.
12. Use a shower, not a bath, and keep showers short.
13. Put a brick in the toilet tank to cut down the amount of water in the flush.
14. Fix leaky hoses and hose connections in the garden.
15. Use a sprinkler head that gives large drops instead of a fine mist. A fine mist evaporates more quickly.
16. Use a drip irrigator rather than a sprinkler.
17. Water during the coolest time of the day to reduce evaporation.
18. Let the grass grow. Taller grass shades the soil and less water is lost from it.
19. In a drought, first water trees and shrubs, then perennials and annuals last. Leave the lawn to go brown.
20. Add a mulch on the soil to keep it from losing water.
21. Choose plants that will stand up to a dry spell without wilting (e.g. golden rod, thyme, rosemary, lavender, salvia).
22. Buy a rain barrel to catch water from your gutter for watering your plants.
23. Cover a swimming pool when not in use.
24. Fill the pool less than normal.
25. Only use car washes that use recycled water.

Answers

**This will depend on student choices:
see notes.**

Notes

The idea of communicating basic science ideas is carried forward in this worksheet in the form of a poster that will help other members of the family remember how easy it is to save water at home.

Students can choose the ideas they think would work best and use them. In making their choices, students will have to look at all of the choices and then filter them based on their home circumstances. They may need some help with this.

Students should also notice that the poster is meant for home use, and so needs to be friendly. For example, it is better to use a decoration of flowers than a formal warning of the kind you might find displayed publicly.

Students could also think up a slogan such as “use washing up water to give the plants a drink during a dry spell”, “a shower a day keeps drought away”, “when you brush, the tap should be hush”, or something else fun but memorable. See what your students can come up with.