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QUIZ: HOW WATER-CONSCIOUS ARE YOU?
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BACKGROUND

Walter : Alright, the low-flow shower head is almost installed!

Wasteful Wally : Thanks a lot, Walter!



Aqua-Mary : The watering hose is now protected because it's properly stored!



Jérémie : Friends, I think you're ready for our "water-rific" quiz! Show me your stuff!



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QUIZ

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QUESTION 1

What's the best way to obtain hot water for grandma's tea?

- A** Only put the amount of water needed in a kettle.
- B** Fill a large pot of water and boil it on the stovetop.
- C** Let the hot water run in the shower and collect it in a cup.



ANSWER 1

Only put the amount of water needed in a kettle.

Explanation : Using a kettle saves a lot of water (and electricity) because you only use the amount needed to prepare a hot drink each time. The pot on the stove can also be a good option, as long as you only pour the amount of water you need in it.



QUESTION 2

What's the best way to get cold drinking water?

- A** Fill a pitcher or water bottle and keep it in the fridge.
- B** Let the tap water run until it gets nice and cold.
- C** Buy bottled water and keep it in the fridge.



ANSWER 2

Buy bottled water and keep it in the fridge.

Explanation : It's wise to keep a pitcher of water in the refrigerator at all times. That way, you'll always have cold water on hand. Letting the tap water run wastes several litres of water. As for bottled water, the company who produced it needed several litres of water just to manufacture and ship the empty plastic bottle, so even just buying bottled water is wasteful!



QUESTION 3

You wash the dishes in the sink. Which of the following methods will you use to consume the smallest amount of water possible?

- A** Fill a bin with soapy water and rinse the dishes beside the bin.
- B** Pour a bit of soapy water in the bottom of a bin and rinse the dishes over it.
- C** Put some soap on a sponge and wash all the dishes under running water.



B

ANSWER 3

Pour a bit of soapy water in the bottom of a bin and rinse the dishes over it.

Explanation : You can wash the dishes using a small amount of soapy water in the bottom of a bin or sink. And if you rinse your dishes and utensils over the bin, it will slowly be filled with your rinsing water. This way, all of the running water is used. At some point, the water may start to look dirty, but your soap will continue to do its work, so all of your dishes can be washed in this water.



QUESTION 4

You have a dishwasher. How do you avoid wasting water as much as possible when using it?

- A** Fill the dishwasher to full capacity before starting it.
- B** Start the dishwasher after every meal.
- C** Fill the dishwasher with just the dishes, then start it. Afterwards, fill it with just the utensils and start it again.



ANSWER 4

Fill the dishwasher to full capacity before starting it.

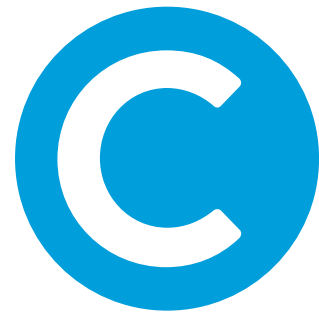
Explanation : Dishwashers are designed to work efficiently when they're full. Therefore, it's useless to start the dishwasher if there is still room for some dishes. By loading the dishwasher to full capacity, you save about 7% of the water used for this task because the machine works at full capacity—and is used less frequently! Newer washing machines are even more efficient: some use as little as 16 litres of water—that's less than half the water consumed by older models, which typically use 38 litres! Remind your parents of this when it's time to replace that old dishwasher!



QUESTION 5

What happens when paper tissues get thrown into the toilet instead of the garbage?

- A** No negative or positive effect. It changes absolutely nothing.
- B** Positive effect. Paper tissues help to clean out the pipes of the house.
- C** Negative effect. Paper tissues must absolutely be thrown in the garbage, otherwise it's simply a waste of water.



ANSWER 5

Negative effect. Paper tissues must absolutely be thrown in the garbage, otherwise it's simply a waste of water.

Explanation : Paper tissues, cotton swabs, paper towels, wet wipes—none of these should be thrown in the toilet! Doing so wastes water and can even clog the toilet! Do you really need to waste 3 to 20 litres of water (depending on the toilet) just to get rid of one tissue?

Only toilet paper can be thrown in the toilet. It's designed specifically for this use and it decomposes easily. Also, make sure you only use the necessary amount—no need to go through half a roll each time!

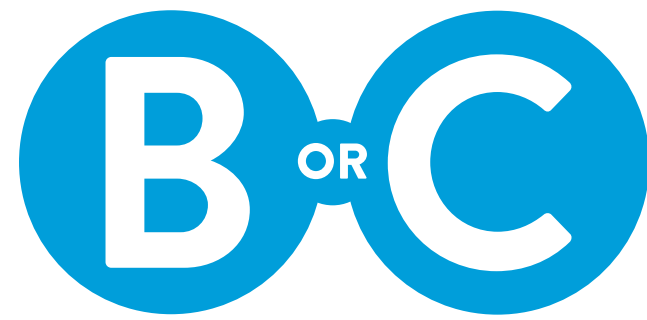


QUESTION 6

What should you do with hair that has just been cut?

- A Throw it in the toilet.
- B Throw it in the garbage.
- C Compost it.





ANSWER 6

Throw it in the garbage or compost it.

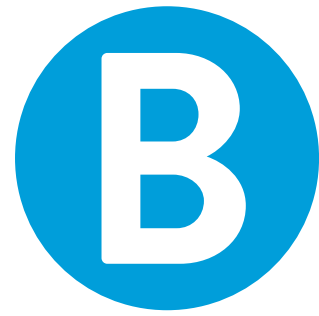
Explanation : Throw it in the garbage ... or compost it! Yes, believe it or not, hair is compostable! Throwing hair in the toilet or sink is a bad idea because it will damage the equipment used in wastewater treatment plants and clog pipes. You can also put your hair outside so that birds can use it to make their nests.



QUESTION 7

Which of the following is preferable when brushing your teeth?

- A** Letting the water run and singing very loudly so that nobody hears it.
- B** Only using water to rinse your toothbrush and your mouth.
- C** Brushing your teeth without using water, wiping them carefully with a paper towel, and throwing the paper towel in the toilet.



ANSWER 7

Only using water to rinse your toothbrush and your mouth

Explanation : Brushing your teeth should be as simple as a smile: brush, rinse, brush again, rinse again and you're done! Turning off the tap while brushing is a simple gesture that saves about 8 litres of water each time you brush—that's 16 litres of water that can easily be saved each day! Why would you let that water run, anyway? To create the soothing sounds of a babbling brook? It's really not a good idea.

As for the paper towel option: 1) it could clog the toilet, and 2) it would waste even more water!



QUESTION 8

Which of the following is preferable when washing clothes?

- A** Accumulating dirty laundry to make large loads.
- B** Only putting a small amount of laundry in the washer to make several small loads.
- C** Adding clean clothes to your dirty laundry to make the loads bigger.



ANSWER 8

Accumulating dirty laundry to make large loads.

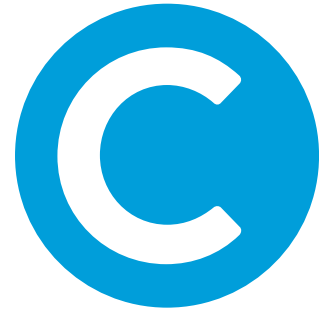
Explanation : By doing large loads of laundry, you'll save a lot of water and use less soap than if you do several small loads. Front-loading washers use half the amount of water that top-loading washers consume. That's worth keeping in mind when it's time to replace your old washing machine! When you decide to do your laundry, ask the other members of your family if they have clothes to wash—dirty clothes, of course! Washing clothes that are already clean is obviously a waste of water. Also be mindful of microplastics; synthetic fiber clothing should be avoided.



QUESTION 9

What's the best way to thaw out food?

- A** Place the food package in a bowl of boiling water.
- B** Run warm water over it.
- C** Put the frozen foods in the fridge.



ANSWER 9

Put the frozen foods in the fridge.

Explanation : Frozen foods will be fully thawed in the refrigerator within one or two days. It's just a matter of remembering to take them out of the freezer a day or two before cooking them. Using tap water to thaw out food wastes time and a lot of water! Placing wrapped foods in boiling water is obviously not recommended, since some packages can't withstand the heat. Besides, this water will have to be thrown out afterwards.



QUESTION 10

What should you do if the toilet isn't completely cleaned after you've flushed?

- A** Flush the toilet several times until all the residue is cleared from the toilet bowl.
- B** Put a small amount of water in a glass and pour it gently over the residue.
- C** Scrub the bowl using a toilet brush.



B

ANSWER 10

Put a small amount of water in a glass and pour it gently over the residue.

Explanation : Pouring water from a glass over any remaining residue requires very little water, and it's really effective, even if the residue is underneath the water in the bowl. Your toilet brush is useful, but you have to wash it afterwards if anything stays stuck to it, for hygiene reasons. As for flushing several times, this option carelessly wastes dozens of litres of water! A pro tip to save even more water: add a container in your toilet tank to reduce its water consumption, or choose a water-efficient model for your next purchase.



QUESTION 11

What's the best way to detect a toilet leak, at home?

- A** Check if the water level rises in the toilet bowl.
- B** Pour a few drops of food colouring in the toilet tank and observe the water in the toilet bowl.
- C** Place a bar of soap in the toilet tank and smell the water in the toilet bowl.



B

ANSWER 11

Pour a few drops of food colouring in the toilet tank and observe the water in the toilet bowl.

Explanation : Colouring the water in the tank is the way to go. If there's a leak, the water in the bowl will be coloured, even without flushing. The leak will be trapped! Afterwards, it's a matter of finding out if the leak comes from the flapper or the tank's refill mechanism. It's often easy to fix a toilet leak, and it saves so much water!

You can also detect a leak by listening for the sound of water flowing: simply press your ear against the tank. Lastly, if you see water constantly “quivering” in the toilet bowl, that's also a sign you have a leak.



QUESTION 12

What should you do when a tap is leaking?

- A** Take a picture of it, post it on the Internet, and wait for advice.
- B** Fix the leak as soon as possible.
- C** Collect the leaking water in a container made of recyclable plastic.



B

ANSWER 12

Fix the leak as soon as possible.

Explanation : It is very important to fix the tap as soon as possible. A single leaking faucet can waste several hundred litres of water each day! Found a leak in your house? Fixing a tap with your parents can be a fun task—as long as you don't forget to turn off the water supply before unscrewing the tap!



QUESTION 13

Which of the following usually requires the least amount of water?

- A A bath.
- B A shower that lasts five minutes or less.
- C A shower that lasts ten to fifteen minutes.



B

ANSWER 13

A shower that lasts five minutes or less.

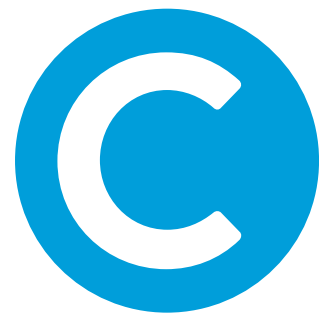
Explanation : Taking a shower instead of a bath can save up to 100 litres of water each time. That's on the condition you keep it short, of course! A long shower (ten minutes and more) can sometimes require more water than a full bathtub. The best way to save water is to close the tap when soaping yourself. Installing a low-flow shower head is also a great idea—and it's so easy to do!



QUESTION 14

What's the best way to wash the car at home?

- A** Spray the car with a hose until all the dirt is gone, without using soap.
- B** Wet the car using a hose with no gun, use a car wash mitt to lather it with soap, then rinse it using the hose.
- C** Lather up the car using a bucket of water and a car wash mitt, then rinse it using a hose with a gun.



ANSWER 14

Lather up the car using a bucket of water and a car wash mitt, then rinse it using a hose with a gun.

Explanation : A water hose isn't an effective tool to remove dirt from the car without first soaping it: you have to water the car for a very long time, which wastes an enormous amount of water. The best—and most fun—way to wash a car is to fill a bucket with soapy water and scrub the vehicle using a car wash mitt (or a sponge). With this method, the water from the hose is only used to rinse the car, which can be done quickly and easily. Using a gun allows you to stop watering when the hose is placed on the ground, which avoids unnecessary waste. Only a few litres of water are needed for a sparkling clean car and a quality moment with your family!



QUESTION 15

What's the best way to remove dust and dirt from the driveway of a home?

- A** Use a broom made for sweeping outdoors and your muscle strength.
- B** Fill a bucket with water and pour it forcefully on the dust. Repeat a few times.
- C** Spray the driveway using a hose with a strong jet.



ANSWER 15

Use a broom made for sweeping outdoors and your muscle strength.

Explanation : There's nothing like getting some exercise! Using a broom is the fastest and most water-conscious way to clean an asphalt driveway—and it's also great to stay in shape! As for the water hose, ideally you should only use it to make flowers and vegetables grow. Does anyone really believe that asphalt can grow?