

Plymouth Environmental Academy Test Your WaterSense! – Answer Key

How well do you understand your own water usage?
Do you know how to best save water in your home?
Test your knowledge with the following quiz!

1. The average family of four uses approximately ___ gallons of water per day?
- A. 50
 - B. 100
 - C. 250
 - D. 400

Answer – D

It may seem hard to believe, but the average person uses 100 gallons of water each day—that's enough to fill 1,600 drinking glasses. This water use can easily be cut by as much as 30 percent if American households took a few simple steps to use water more efficiently.

2. How much of the water on earth is available for people's everyday use?
- A. More than 50%
 - B. 28%
 - C. Less than 1%
 - D. 12%

Answer – C

About 75 percent of the earth's surface is covered by water, but less than 1 percent of this is available for people to use. The rest is salt water, locked in inaccessible locations underground, or is frozen in polar ice caps and glaciers.

3. How much water can you save per day by turning off the tap while brushing your teeth in the morning and at bedtime?
- A. Up to 2 gallons
 - B. Up to 4 gallons
 - C. Up to 8 gallons
 - D. Up to 6 gallons

Answer – C

The average bathroom faucet flows at a rate of 2 gallons per minute; by simply turning the tap off, you can save more than 100 gallons of water per person each month.

4. Which of the following uses less water?
- A. Taking a five minute shower
 - B. Taking a bath

Answer – A

Taking a five minute shower uses 10 to 25 gallons of water, while a full tub requires about 70 gallons. If you take a bath, stopper the drain immediately and adjust the temperature as you fill the tub.

5. In the average household, which of the following wastes the MOST water per day?

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

Answer – C

A leaky toilet can waste about 200 gallons of water every day! To tell if your toilet is leaking, place a drop of food coloring in the tank; if the color shows in the bowl without flushing, you have a leak.

6. How much water is saved per flush with a high-efficiency toilet?

- A. 0.6 to 1.9 gallons
- B. 2.2 to 5.7 gallons
- C. More than 6 gallons

Answer – B

If your toilet is from 1992 or earlier, you probably have an inefficient model that uses between 3.5 to 7 gallons per flush. New high-efficiency models use less than 1.3 gallons per flush—that's 60 to 80 percent less water than their less efficient counterparts.

7. How much water used for irrigating lawns and gardens, on average, is wasted due to overwatering and evaporation?

- A. 50%
- B. 25%
- C. 15%
- D. 10%

Answer – A

Water-efficient irrigation systems help save water, potentially more than 11 billion gallons per year across the United States. This is equal to the amount of water used by 3,200 garden hoses flowing constantly for one year!

8. A water-efficient irrigation system may include which features?

- A. Drip irrigation
- B. Moisture sensors
- C. Rain shut-off device
- D. All of the above

Answer – D

Inefficient or poorly maintained irrigation systems can waste water and money each month. Look for sprinklers that produce droplets—not mist. Systems with rain shutoff devices and moisture sensors reduce excess watering and runoff. Check out the City of Plymouth Water Efficiency Rebate Program - <https://www.plymouthmn.gov/departments/administrative-services-/communications/environmental-education/conserves-water/water-efficiency-rebate-program>

9. Which of the following uses less water?
- A. Washing dishes under a running tap
 - B. Washing dishes in a fully loaded automatic dishwasher without pre-rinsing

Answer – B

To waste the least amount of water in the kitchen, operate your automatic dishwasher only when it's fully loaded. Filling the sink or a bowl instead of running water can save an average of 25 gallons.

10. Between 1950 and 2000, the U.S. population grew by 89 percent; approximately how much has our water use grown in the same period?
- A. 200%
 - B. 50%
 - C. 100%
 - D. 25%

Answer – A

11. High-efficiency washing machines save about how much water per load compared to traditional models?
- A. 2-5 gallons
 - B. 7-10 gallons
 - C. 11-13 gallons
 - D. 14 gallons or more

Answer – D

High-efficiency washing machines use less than 27 gallons of water per load, compared to traditional models that use an average of 41 gallons. To achieve even greater savings, adjust water levels in the washing machine to match the size of the load.

12. Easily corrected household water leaks account for what percentage of the average water bill?
- A. 2%
 - B. 4%
 - C. 6%
 - D. 8%

Answer – D

Leaky faucets that drip at the rate of one drip per second can waste up to 3,000 gallons of water each year. If you're unsure if you have a leak, read your water meter before and after a two-hour period when no water is being used. If the meter does not read exactly the same, you probably have a leak.

Quiz can be found on the City of Plymouth website and was originally produced by the U. S. EPA WaterSense program.

<https://www.plymouthmn.gov/home/showpublisheddocument/530/636078210706600000>