

Conservation News



Environmental News and Information from the City of Melbourne
Public Works & Utilities Department ~ Environmental Community Outreach Division

Test your water conservation knowledge

Think you know everything there is to know about water? You can't be sure until you Test Your WaterSense. The following quiz is from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's WaterSense web site. For more information and activities, you can visit the site at:

<http://epa.gov/watersense>

WaterSense Quiz

1. Nationally, the average family of four uses approximately ___ gallons of water per day?

- A. 50
- B. 100
- C. 250
- D. 400

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%

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

4. Which of the following uses less water?

- A. Taking a five minute shower
- B. Taking a bath

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

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

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

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

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

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

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%

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

12. Easily corrected household water leaks account for what percentage of the average water bill?

- A. 2%
- B. 4%
- C. 6%
- D. 8%

Answer Key

1. D The average person in the U.S. 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% if American households took a few simple steps to use water more efficiently.

2. 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 ice caps and glaciers.

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

4. 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.

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5. 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. 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% less water than their less efficient counterparts.

7. 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. 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 run-off.

9. 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. A With demand outstripping supply, 36 states anticipate some degree of water shortage by 2013.

11. 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. D Leaky faucets that drip at the rate of one drop per second can waste up to 2,700 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.

SCORING

9 or more questions correct: Congratulations, you're a WaterSense genius! You understand that water is a precious resource that must be used more efficiently. To learn more about the WaterSense program and how to be more water-efficient, visit the WaterSense Web site.

6-8 questions correct: You're a WaterSense expert! Learn more about why water efficiency is important and how you can become more water-efficient, visit the WaterSense Web site.

Less than 6 questions correct:

You're a WaterSense novice. But that means there's room for improvement! Learn more about why water efficiency is important and how you can become more water-efficient, visit the WaterSense Web site.



New WATER program emphasizes environmental stewardship

The City of Melbourne has partnered with the St. Johns River Water Management District's Brevard County Watershed Action Volunteers (WAV) program. The program works to train and equip volunteers for a variety of important tasks so that they can help make a difference in their community. Volunteers are trained by a specialist to use field test kits for monitoring water quality. They also survey streams for sources of pollutants, participate in revegetation projects and shoreline cleanups, and help out in the field, in laboratories and in offices.

Lisa Good, the Brevard WAV Coordinator, is establishing a new program called Watershed Action Teens Environmental Response, or WATER for short.

"WATER is an extensive 12-month program," Good said. "Students can get their names on a list now. Applications will be available in the fall and interviews and selections will be during December."

The program is designed for teens between the ages of 13 (by Jan. 1 of application year) and 17 who are interested in the environment and preserving it and who possess a strong desire to try new and exciting things.

Once teens are selected for the program, they undergo six weeks of training. Upon completion of training, participants provide service to watersheds in which they live, at numerous locations and through a variety of activities.

Volunteers who participate in the program work one designated Saturday each month.

"This gives them a regular schedule with regular hours so



West Shore Junior/Senior High School students and a parent are shown participating in the Brevard WAV program last spring. These volunteers are dip netting in the Indian River Lagoon at Ballard Park in Melbourne .

they can get their volunteer hours in routinely," Good said. "They are given the chance to give back to their communities and earn the volunteer hours they need. During training, we not only teach them skills related to their jobs, we teach them people skills that can be used throughout their lives."

Program activities include storm drain marking, removal of invasive plants, public education, water testing and area cleanups.

To get your teen's name on the list, please contact Lisa Good at: wavbrevard@sjrwmd.com or call 321-728-1006.