

Saving Water Can Help Save Our Planet

There is a lack of fresh **water** to meet the demands of our planet's growing population. Nearly, half of billion people on the earth face severe water shortages all year round. In addition, half of the world's largest cities experience frequent water shortages.



There are specific things that each of us can do to **reduce** the amount of water we use each day. Five of the most important things that we can do to **conserve** include:

1. Taking a shorter shower.
2. Turning off the water while brushing your teeth.
3. Fixing the leaking faucets in your home.
4. Turning off the water while washing your hands.
5. If it's not dark yellow, let it mellow (don't flush every time you urinate).

Since we seem to waste lots of water in the shower, maybe that would be a great place to start. In fact, showering accounts for almost 17 percent of our daily indoor water use. Taking shorter showers is super helpful. For example, if you can cut your shower time from 10 to 7 minutes, you will save 30% of the water that you used to waste.

In addition, if we design showerheads that are more efficient then this would be another important step towards reducing our water consumption. In terms of design, older showerheads tend to have fewer but larger holes through which the water flows. In contrast, newer showers tend to have a greater number of smaller holes.

In this STEM Challenge, your task is to see which type of showerhead uses less water and is more energy efficient.