

The Great Lakes, formed by Lake Superior, Lake Michigan, Lake Huron, Lake Erie, and Lake Ontario contain 18 percent of the world's fresh water supply. As the population increases, the demand for fresh water, like that of the Great Lakes, will rise making current supplies a very precious resource! Improving our water efficiency will help ensure reliable water supplies today and for future generations.

Here's a fun and easy way to see how much water you use around your home. Check the area that describes your water-use habits and then add up your score to see how water efficient you are!

1. **How long do you take in the shower?**
 - 5 minutes or less (3 pts.)
 - 8 minutes or more (1 pt.)
 - I take baths not showers (0 pts.)
2. **How do you wash your bike or family car?**
 - Bucket and sponge (5 pts.)
 - Garden hose with nozzle (3 pts.)
 - Garden hose without nozzle (0 pts.)
3. **How much water do you use while brushing your teeth?**
 - Turn water off while brushing (4 pts.)
 - Turn water on and off throughout brushing (1 pt.)
 - Let water run while brushing (0 pts.)
4. **When you do laundry, how full are the loads?**
 - Usually full loads (2 pts.)
 - Mainly large loads, but some are small (1 pt.)
 - Mainly small loads (0 pts.)
5. **How do you like your drinking water?**
 - Chilled in the fridge (3 pts.)
 - Run from the faucet (1 pt.)
 - From a water bottle (0 pts.)

Water-saving Tips!

Tip 1: A bath can use up to 70 gallons, while a short shower only uses 10 to 25 gallons.

Tip 2: Wash your bike or car with a bucket and sponge instead of a hose. A hose can waste 6 gallons per minute if you leave it running, but using a bucket and sponge only uses a few gallons!

Tip 3: By turning the faucet off, while brushing your teeth, you save about 4 gallons of water a minute!

Tip 4: Use full loads as much as possible. Be sure to adjust the load setting on your machine when you don't have a full load.

Tip 5: Choose tap water over bottled – it takes about 1.5 gallons of water to manufacture a single plastic bottle. Keep a pitcher of water in the fridge, so when you want a cold glass of water you won't waste water by letting the tap run!

6. What time of the day is your lawn or garden watered?

- In the early morning and evening only (2 pts.)
- Sometimes during the day, sometimes in mornings or evenings (1 pt.)
- Always during the day (0 pts.)

7. Are any faucets in your house dripping?

- None are dripping (3 pts.)
- Some are dripping, but not all (0 pts.)
- Most are dripping (0 pts.)

8. Are any toilets in your home leaking?

- No leaking toilets (3 pts.)
- I don't know (0 pts.)
- Yes (0 pts.)scored

9. How do you wash your dishes?

- Wash in sink with a stopper (5 pts.)
- Load a dishwasher until full (3 pts.)
- Wash dishes under the faucet (1 pt.)

Tip 6: Watering your garden during the cooler times of the day, such as early morning or evening, greatly reduces the amount of water lost to evaporation.

Tip 7: A faucet that leaks about one drip per second can waste more than 3,000 gallons per year! Turn them off tightly and check for leaks often.

Tip 8: A leaking toilet can waste up to 200 gallons of water every day! Check your toilets for leaks and ask a parent, teacher, or other adult to help you tighten up any loose parts.

Tip 9: If you use a dishwasher, make sure it is full when you run it. If you are hand washing your dishes, plug up the sink and turn off the faucet to reduce wasting water down the drain. If your family is shopping for a new appliance, look for the WaterSense label that indicates the product is water efficient.



See How You Scored!

30-21 pts: Congratulations! You are water efficient! See the tips to learn about how you can improve even more.

20-11 pts: You are getting close! Review the quiz and tips to see how to make your home more water efficient.

10 pts or Lower: Needs improvement! Look for ways to improve areas that scored low on your test.



Stay tuned to www.michigan.gov/deqp2 to find out about our upcoming One-Billion Gallon Water Challenge!
A challenge for Michigan to conserve 1-billion gallons of water.