DIRECTIONS

Your mission, Water Agent, is to observe water usage and waste in your house without being noticed. Watch and document your family members’ water use by answering the questions below. If you don’t know the answer, estimate or ask a parent for help.

Bathroom

How many showers were taken in your household today? ______

How long were the showers (in minutes)? ______

Do you have low flow showerheads (low flow showerheads use 2.5 gal/minute vs. 5 gal/minute)? ______

How many baths were taken? ______

How many toilet flushes were there today? ______

Do you have low flow toilets (low flow toilets use 1.6 gal or less/flush vs. 2 - 5 gal/flush)? ______

Do family members let the water run when they brush their teeth, wash their face, shave? ______

Kitchen

Do family members let the water run while washing dishes by hand? ______

How many times does your family run the dishwasher each week? ______

Is the dishwasher full when it runs? ______

Does your family run the water until it gets cold to get a glass of water? ______

Laundry

How many loads of laundry are done each week? ______

Are the loads of laundry usually full? ______

Outside

How many times is your lawn watered each week? ______

How many minutes is the lawn watered per watering? ______

Is the lawn watered in the early morning or evening to avoid evaporation from mid-day heat? ______

Estimate the number of minutes water is used outdoors for purposes other than lawn watering (wash cars, rinse outdoor furniture and clean equipment) each week. ______

Does your family use mulch to reduce water evaporation? ______
Water Watchers
Run vs. Rinse

Directions
Many of us let the water run while we are doing activities such as brushing our teeth and washing our hands. This uses a lot more water than we actually need. Your mission, Water Agent, is to investigate how much water is used to brush teeth with the water running (Running method) and then how much water is used to brush teeth if the water is turned off while brushing and is only turned on for rinsing (Rinsing method). Then, calculate how much water you could save by using the Rinsing method.

Materials needed:
Family member or friend
Bucket or container
8 oz measuring cup

RUNNING METHOD
Have a family member or friend brush their teeth with the water continually running. While the water is running, collect the water and pour it in the container. Repeat this action until they are done brushing. Once the teeth brushing is complete, use your measuring cup to measure and report how many 8 oz cups were collected in the container.

______ cups of water were used in the Running method.

RINSING METHOD
Have another family member or friend (or the same one for really clean teeth) brush their teeth using the water only to rinse their toothbrush or their mouth. Collect the water used for this method as well. After this teeth brushing is complete, use your measuring cup to measure and report how many 8 oz cups were used.

______ cups of water were used in the Rinsing method.

RUN vs. RINSE
Calculate how much water is saved when the Rinsing method is used instead of the Running method.

______ cups of water used in the Running method

______ cups of water used in the Rinse method

Equals

______ cups of water SAVED!