

Water Works Family Guide

Welcome!

At school, your child is learning about New Jersey's water system, water use, and conservation. Now we invite you to wade into the **Water Works** program at home!

More than 7 billion people live on this planet, and every one of us needs water to survive. Compared to people in many parts of the world, Americans use a lot of water. The average American family of four uses 400 gallons per day for household uses—and that doesn't count the water used to produce electricity, food, clothing, and other goods we consume. For example, it takes 1,000 gallons of water per person per day to produce the typical American diet.



For a chance to
WIN a rain barrel
for your school,
see details on the
next page!

How does your water use stack up?

Activity	Typical Water Use	Your Use
Showers	Five showers per person per week, eight minutes per shower	
Dishwashing	By hand: 20 gallons per load Dishwasher: 4–6 gallons per load	
Toilets	Standard toilets: 3.5 gallons per flush Low-flow toilets: 1.6 gallons per flush	
Laundry	Three loads per person per week	
Lawn/garden care	Nearly 60 percent of the average family's household water use goes toward lawn and garden care. (Factors: lawn size, plant types, climate, watering frequency)	
Food	One serving of beef requires 342 gallons to produce; one serving of pork requires 109 gallons; one serving of poultry requires 89 gallons; 1 cup of milk requires 55 gallons	

1. Look at your water usage habits. Which household activities use the most water in your home?
2. List five ways that your family can make changes to conserve water.



For a detailed online calculator to measure
your water footprint, visit www.waterfootprint.org.

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ENTRIES DUE
12/10/12!

Water Works SWEEPSTAKES

Take five minutes to tell us why your family is committed to saving water at www.scholastic.com/njaw/yes and you'll be automatically entered for a chance to win a rain barrel for your child's school!

IT'S EASY!

1. Go to www.scholastic.com/njaw/yes and complete the entry form by 12/10/12.
2. Keep an eye out for a winners' announcement in January. Ten winners will be randomly drawn from all entries.

10 NEW JERSEY SCHOOLS WILL WIN

- **A RAIN BARREL** and a **VISIT** from a water engineer or scientist
- **A \$50 CLASSROOM SCIENCE LIBRARY**



NO PURCHASE NECESSARY. A PURCHASE WILL NOT INCREASE YOUR CHANCES OF WINNING. VOID WHERE PROHIBITED. Water Works Sweepstakes (the "Sweepstakes") is open only to adults aged 18 or older upon entry, who as of the time of entry reside in New Jersey American Water service areas (listed at www.scholastic.com/njaw). Sweepstakes ends 12/10/12. Entrants must write a one-sentence answer to the question "Why is water conservation important to you?" Prizes: Ten (10) randomly selected winners will receive (i) a Rain Collection Barrel to be installed in a local school of the winner's choice in one of the Service Areas (a "School," contingent upon school approval), (ii) a prize package, which includes an educational presentation by a water engineer or scientist about the importance of water conservation at the School, and (iii) \$50 classroom library of science books. Approximate retail value ("ARV"): \$300. For Official Rules, prize descriptions, odds disclosure, and to enter, visit www.scholastic.com/njaw. Sponsor: Scholastic Inc., 557 Broadway, New York, NY 10012.

Be Water Wise

Water usage can add up fast—and often in surprising ways. Fortunately there are some simple measures you can take to cut down on your water usage—and your water bill. Sit down and make a family plan to get smart about your H₂O use!



- 💧 **Limit leaks.** On average, 10 gallons of water per day are lost to dripping faucets, hoses, or toilets. Fix any fixtures that spring a leak.
- 💧 **Clean and green.** Laundry accounts for almost a quarter of household water use. Wear clothes that aren't dirty again and adjust your washer's settings so you aren't using more water than the load requires.
- 💧 **Do dish duty.** Dishwashers actually use less water than hand washing. Just make sure the washer is full before you hit the start button.
- 💧 **Plan your plants.** When planting lawns and gardens, choose vegetation that can get by without frequent watering. Better yet, skip the lawn and use native plants or rock gardens instead.
- 💧 **Harvest the rain.** Build or buy a rain barrel to collect rainwater for watering plants, washing cars—and filling water balloons!
- 💧 **Reduce, reuse.** The material goods we use—clothes, electronics, household decor—all require water to produce. Buying new stuff costs water as well as money.