EPA WaterSense

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# A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A DROP

## Worksheet #1

This exercise will help you understand where your water comes from, where it goes when it goes down the drain and how the ways you use water affect the environment. To complete this exercise, you will need to take a close look at things around your home and do some research (both online and by asking members of your family for help).

**THE MORE YOU LEARN, THE MORE YOU CAN HELP PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT!**

1. What is a *watershed*? (Things to think about...Is it land? Is it water? Does it have boundaries?)

2. Do you use the public water supply or a private well? (If you don't know, ask your parents.)

3. Do you have a septic system or sewer lines? (If you don't know, ask your parents.)

4. Do you know where your water comes from? Find the name of the waterbody that supplies your drinking water. (If you have a well, look for the name of the waterbody where the water supplied by your town comes from.)

**5.** Who uses this waterbody (the drinking water source) and the other streams, rivers, or lakes in your watershed?

a. How do they use these waterbodies (e.g. drinking, swimming, habitat, etc.)?

**6.** How many water fixtures in your home are leaking or dripping? Look and listen for leaks, and don't forget outside fixtures!

**7.** What ways (aside from leaky fixtures) can you find in your home that water is wasted?

**8.** What ways can you think of that your family could increase the amount of water you save? Write your answers below and circle the ones that your family already does.

**9.** Where is the first place that water goes when it goes down the drain? *Hint: Use your answer to question #3 to help figure it out!*

**10.** Where does the water go from there? (Think long-term *and* short-term!)

**11.** How does water get into your watershed?

**12.** How does water leave your watershed?

**13.** How does wasting water (using it inefficiently) affect the environment where the water comes from?

a. How might it affect the ways that people and critters *upstream* of you can use water?

b. How might it affect the ways that people and critters *downstream* of you can use the water?

Now you're ready to figure out how much water you and your family members are using each day! Use Worksheet 2 to figure it out, then use the *Pledge to Filter out Bad Water Habits* to start using water more efficiently! The more tips you pledge to use, the more you'll save money, conserve resources, and lessen your impacts on our natural resources!