



Home Water Audit

Figuring out how much water you use and how you are using it can be eye opening. With your family, try conducting this water audit to get an estimate of how much water your family uses.

First, discuss with your family the different ways you use water at home. Record these ideas in your science journal or on a blank piece of paper. (If you don't already have a science journal, make one! Grab several pieces of paper and fold them together like a book. You can make a different journal for each project, or one big one for everything. Your science journal is a place to write down observations, thoughts, questions, and data.)

Then, each person should decide if, as a family, you use an average amount of water, more than average, or less than average. Everyone does not have to agree. Record these ideas in your science journal.

Next, find your water meter, if you have one. If you live in an apartment or condo, you might not have one. Record the water reading on two days in a row at the same time of day. For example, check your meter first on Friday at 9:00am, then again on Saturday at 9:00am. Subtract your first reading from the second reading. Water meters usually measure water in cubic feet, which is equal to 7.48 gallons of water. To find out how many gallons of water your household used in one day, multiply the number you got from your readings by 7.48. To figure out your daily average, take a reading the first day, then again several days later at the same time of day. Then, subtract the second reading from the first reading, and divide by the number of days. For example, check your meter first on Friday at 9:00am, then again the following Friday at 9:00am, then subtract the first Friday from the second Friday and divide by 7. This will give you an average amount of water use for your whole household, inside and out.

To figure out how much water is being used in different ways,

