

Compare Showers and Baths

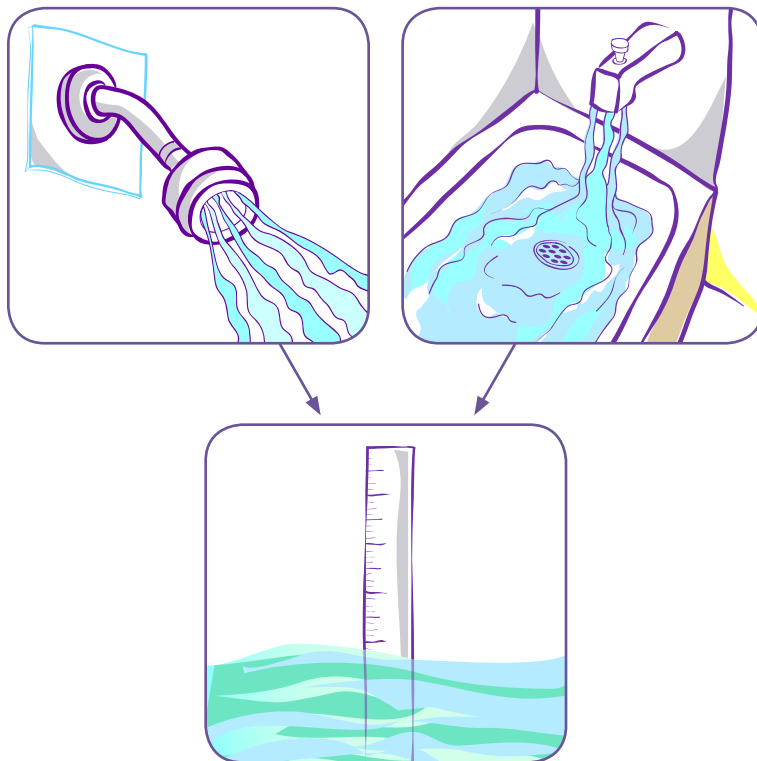
HOW MUCH WATER DO YOU USE TO GET CLEAN?

Taking showers and baths not only uses water, but also uses energy, because gas or electricity is used to heat the water

Find out which uses more water and energy: a shower or a bath.

TRY THIS

1. Ask an adult to supervise while you do this experiment at home.
2. Fill your bathtub to take a bath the way you normally do.
3. Measure the depth of the water and write it down. Be sure there are no items in the water when you measure.
4. Another day, close the bathtub drain and take a shower the way you normally do.
5. When you're done, turn off the water and measure the depth of the water. Write it down on your chart. Be sure there are no items in the water when you measure, and take your measurement at the same location in the bathtub as your previous measurement.
6. Bring your results to class and compare. Which used more water, a bath or shower?



THINGS YOU NEED

- Combination bathtub and shower with closeable drain
- Yardstick
- Paper to make a chart

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

What if your whole family agreed to limit showers to seven minutes or less? Would your water and energy bills go down?

How else can you save money and energy on showers?

Is your showerhead wasting hot water? To find out, try this: Rinse out an empty half-gallon milk carton and hold it under the spray to catch all the water. If the carton fills in less than 10 seconds, your shower is wasting water.

How much water is your community using? Multiple the results of your experiment by the number of people in your town, or your state.