

What is a Tippy-Tap?

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In various parts of the world, families build simple devices in order to wash their hands. This device is commonly called a tippy-tap.

Many communities do not have access to clean, running water; which is crucial in reducing the spread of bacterial diseases. The simple act of washing hands with soap and water can reduce diarrhoea by over 40 percent. This is important because every day nearly 1,000 children die from preventable water and sanitation related diarrheal diseases.*

Tippy-taps around the world

The construction of tippy-taps vary from country to country, as they are often produced with the resources easily available to them, and suitable for their own needs.



TANZANIA

A tippy-tap installed as part of the Mbulu Integrated Development Program.

Watch [this clip](#) to view Super Dube explaining how he builds and uses a Tippy-tap.

Photo: Penelope Frew



CAMBODIA

This tippy-tap is built using a mounted frame made of wood. The containers are attached using rope which also holds up planks of wood. Water is then tipped from the container by tapping a lever with your foot

Photo: Caritas Australia



SOLOMON ISLANDS

These tippy-taps are held up using a bamboo frame. The water is held in large plastic drink bottles.

Photo: Neil Nuia



MOZAMBIQUE

This tippy-tap constructed in Mozambique is held up using a wooden frame. A piece of timber is attached to a rope as a foot lever, used to pour the water out of the bottle.

Photo: Emidio Josine

*Source: United Nations <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/water-and-sanitation>

Making a Tippy-Tap

Step 1: Use a screwdriver to make 2 holes in the milk container. (You may need an adult to help.)

Make a hole here to let air in



Make a hole here to let air out

Step 2: Make the frame out of four long sticks.

Push the sticks into the ground.



Tie the sticks together at the top with string

Step 3: Place stones in the middle to prevent puddles and one short stick on top.



Step 4: Tie a piece of string to one end of the second short stick. Then tie the other end of the string to the neck of the plastic bottle.



Step 5: Half fill the container with water and place the crossbar through the handle.



When you place your foot on the stick, the container will tip forward.

Now you are ready to wash your hands.

Design Your Own Tippy-Tap

Can you design your own unique tippy-tap using everyday materials?

Complete the following steps in order to design, construct and then evaluate your own tippy-tap.

DESIGN

- Make a list of the materials you will need to construct your tippy tap.
- Draw a detailed diagram of what the completed tippy-tap will look like. Ensure you label it with any necessary information e.g. if there are any holes required, how many legs the stand will have etc.
- In what way is your design unique?

CONSTRUCTION

- Develop a story-board like set of instructions, showing the steps you will take to construct your tippy-tap.
- Start to construct your tippy-tap.
- Once built, test your tap to see if it works effectively.

EVALUATION

- Did your tippy-tap work effectively?
- How long did it take for you to build?
- What was the hardest part to build?
- Did your tippy-tap change from your original design? If yes, why?
- What were some challenges you faced during construction?
- How many times can you wash your hands before needing to fill the bucket?

