



1. Garden:

Do you use mulch on your garden?

- No (0 pts.)
- Sometimes (2 pts.)
- Regularly (4 pts.)

2. Watering:

A. What time of the day do you water?

- Always during the day (0 pts.)
- Sometimes during the day, sometimes in mornings or evenings (1 pts.)
- In the early morning and evening only (2 pts.)

B. How is your lawn watered?

- Timed sprinkler system (5 pts.)
- Garden hose with nozzle (3 pts.)
- Garden sprinkler (1 pts.)

3. Swimming Pool:

Do you have a swimming pool?

- Yes, with no solar cover (or a solar cover that is never used) (0 pts.)
- Yes, with a regularly used solar cover (1 pts.)
- No (2 pts.)

4. Car:

How do you wash your car?

- Garden hose without nozzle (1 pts.)
- Garden hose with nozzle (2 pts.)
- With a bucket of soapy water (3 pts.)

5. Toilet

What type of flush system do your toilets have?

- Single flush (0 pts.)
- 9/4.5 liter dual flush (2 pts.)
- 6/3 liter dual flush or fitted with a water saving device (4 pts.)

6. Showerhead:

Do you have a low-flow showerhead?

- No (0 pts.)
- Don't know (0 pts.)
- Yes (3 pts.)

7. Showers:

How long do you take in the shower?

- I take baths not showers (0 pts.)
- 8 minutes or more (1 pts.)
- 3-8 minutes (2 pts.)
- 3 minutes or less (3 pts.)

Tips

Tip: Having mulch around your plants dramatically reduces water loss.

Tip: Watering your garden during the cooler times of the day (such as early morning or evening) greatly reduces the amount of water lost to evaporation. Use a timer on your sprinkler and make sure to water at the best times of day. Also, if watering by hand, be sure to use a hose with a nozzle so that you don't waste any water in between plants.

Tip: Swimming pools are big water users. If you do have a swimming pool, use a solar blanket to keep the heat in. Make sure you don't have any leaks.

Tip: Wash your car less frequently and use a car wash. Typically the water at a car wash is recycled. If washing your car at home, use a bucket and soapy water and a hose that has a nozzle!

Tip: Single flush (and even some dual flush) systems use large amounts of water. Dramatically reduce water use by installing dual flush systems or by modifying your existing system.

Tip: Low flow showerheads give a great shower while using less water.

Tip: A bath can use well over 100 litres of water. A short shower can use less than 30 litres of water.

Tips**8. Washing Machine:**

What type of washing machine do you use?

- Standard top loader (0 pts.)
- Top loader with suds savings (1 pts.)
- Front loader or AAA+ rated top loader (4 pts.)

9. Load Size:

When you do laundry, how full are your loads?

- Mainly small loads (0 pts.)
- Mainly large loads, but some are small (1 pts.)
- Usually full loads (2 pts.)

10. Kitchen:

How do you wash your dishes?

- Load a dishwasher until full (3 pts.)
- Wash dishes under the faucet (1 pts.)
- Wash in sink with a stopper (5 pts.)

11. Drinking Water:

Is your drinking water?

- From a water cooler (3 pts.)
- Chilled in the fridge (3 pts.)
- Run from the faucet (1 pts.)

12. Tap Flow Rate:

What is your tap water flow rate?

- 15 litres per minute or more (0 pts.)
- Between 9 and 15 litres per minute (2 pts.)
- 9 litres per minute or less (4 pts.)

13. Leaks:

Do you have any tap or toilet cistern leaks?

- Don't know (0 pts.)
- Yes (0 pts.)
- No (2 pts.)

14. Water Heater

Find your home's water heater and place your hand on its side. Is it warm to the touch? Remember always be safe, ask your parents to help you with this one.

- Hot or Very Warm (1 pts.)
- Warm (2 pts.)
- Room Temperature (3 pts.)

15. Refrigerator

Close the door over a piece of paper so it is half in and half out of the refrigerator.

Try and pull the paper out.

- Easy to pull out (1 pts.)
- Hard to pull out (2 pts.)
- Doesn't pull out (4 pts.)

Tip: Front-loading washing machines generally use one-third less water than top loaders.

Tip: Use full loads as much as possible. Be sure to adjust the load setting on your machine when you don't have a full load.

Tip: If you use a dishwasher, ensure that it is full when you run it, use the economy cycle if possible. If you are replacing any appliances always look for the energy star symbol.

Tip: Keep a pitcher of water in the fridge all the time, this way whenever you want a cold glass of water you don't have to waste water by letting the tap run!

Tip: Flow rates on taps can be checked by measuring how many litres of water flow out in one minute with the tap on full. AAA+ rated aerators or washers can be used to reduce flow rates.

Tip: Fix any leaking taps and toilet cisterns.

Tip: If the hot water heater is warm to the touch, it is losing heat through its sides that is supposed to stay in your home's hot water. Ask your parents about installing an insulating blanket around the tank.

Tip: If you can easily pull out the paper, the latch may need to be tightened or the seal replaced.

Tips

16. Furnace Filters

How often were your furnace filters cleaned or changed in the last year?

- Not at all (0 pts.)
- 1-3 times (2 pts.)
- 4 or more times (4 pts.)

17. Lighting

Count the number of compact fluorescent light bulbs you have in high-use areas such as hallways, living rooms, and kitchens.

- No compact fluorescents (0 pts.)
- 1-4 compact fluorescents (2 pts.)
- 5 or more compact fluorescents (4 pts.)

18. Thermostat

Is the temperature setting on your thermostat above or below the following levels?

- Winter** 23°C (74°F) or higher (0 pts.) **Summer** 23°C (74°F) or lower (0 pts.)
- 22 - 23°C (71°-73°F) (2 pts.) 24 - 25°C (75-77°F) (2 pts.)
- 21°C (70°F) or lower (4 pts.) 26°C (78°F) or higher (4 pts.)

19. Attic Insulation

Use a ruler to measure how much insulation you have in the attic area.

- 6 inches or less (1 pts.)
- 7 to 11 inches (2 pts.)
- 12 inches or more (3 pts.)

20. Windows

How many layers of glass do your windows consist of? Is there a special label on the glass? Do you also have storm windows?

- Single-pane with no storm windows (1 pts.)
- Single-pane with storm windows or double-pane windows (2 pts.)
- Double-pane, either gas-filled or with reflective coating (3 pts.)

Tip: Make sure your furnace is operating at maximum efficiency by cleaning or replacing your furnace filters frequently. Be sure to follow the instructions in your owner's manual.

Tip: If you replace 25 percent of your light bulbs in high-use areas with compact fluorescent bulbs, you can reduce energy used for lighting by 50 percent or more.

Tip: A programmable thermostat can help you reduce your heating and cooling bills by as much as 10 percent a year. Ask your parent if you're unsure about the winter and summer temperatures

Tip: If you have less than 12 inches of insulation, you probably need more. Improving your home's insulation is one of the most effective and cost-efficient ways to reduce energy usage.

Tip: During colder months, cover single-pane windows, including the entire frame, with a clear plastic film on the inside to prevent cold air from entering your home.

How you scored:

75-55 pts: Congratulations. Your home is very water and energy efficient!

55-25 pts: Your home is getting close! - Review the quiz and tips to see how to make your home more energy efficient.

25 pts or Lower: Your home needs major improvements. - Look for ways to improve areas that scored low on your test.

After making these changes, take the test again to see how simple improvements have increased your home's energy efficiency.