

Let's talk about WATER

# On the Way to Earth Day

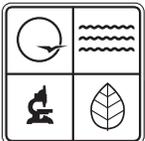
Hi. I'm ED the Earthman. Do you know what would happen if there was no water on Earth? There wouldn't be any trees... or animals... or humans. All living things need water to live. Next to the air we breathe, water is our most important need.

From the time the earth was formed, water has been endlessly circulating. Water becomes part of a cloud (evaporates) and falls down to earth again. The next sip of water you drink might have been used by a dinosaur!

Water can become dirty (polluted) when garbage or dangerous (toxic) materials are thrown in our water. Only 1 percent of all the water on earth is water we can drink (fresh water). It's so important to protect our streams, rivers, lakes and the water underground (groundwater). Because there's such a limited amount of clean water around, we can't afford to waste a single drop.

Whether you drink it, fish it, swim it, water your lawn or irrigate your crops, protecting our water is everybody's business. Join a group (volunteer), attend public meetings and get involved in the planning process. It will help improve our water quality and our quality of life. **GET YOUR FEET WET!**

If you would like to learn more about water issues, call the Department of Natural Resources at 1-800-361-4827 or visit our Web site at [www.dnr.mo.gov](http://www.dnr.mo.gov).



Missouri Department of Natural Resources

Aquifer  
Bathe  
Canoe  
Cook  
Drink  
Fish  
Float  
Ice  
Lake  
Liquid  
Protect  
Rinse  
River  
Shampoo  
Shower  
Spit  
Swim  
Vapor  
Wash

## Search-a-Word

S W I M X K I O D G M E K A L T  
A I M Y Z I O U K W A S H C D O  
B F I S H P I K S R T E O F R R  
E T E L M E L G J I S A K G I N  
C C S A W E O P Y N U I T V N P  
I O H L A L J P X S O C E R K T  
L S V A P O R T H E E R B Q O W  
F I C J L E G U Y T B Y W H O X  
L U X A C P A K O J Z E S T C B  
O G M B N L C R S E Q L I C O A  
A E J S B O P W A Q U I F E R T  
T L K P U H E N H P Z L K A U H  
K C S H O W E R E W U L H Y N E  
S P I T E U A Y L I Q U I D S Z  
W N I L S O P R B F J U Q N T O

### ED the Earthman says...

1. Check faucets, toilets and shower heads for leaks.
2. Run the dishwasher and washing machine when full.
3. Join a Stream Team or start your own. Call Priscilla Stotts at 1-800-361-4827 or (573) 526-3406.
4. Wash your bike with a bucket and sponge instead of letting the hose run. You can save five gallons of water a minute by using a one gallon bucket.
5. Ask adults not to pour gas, oil or other toxic materials down the drain or on the ground.
6. Visit the groundwater monitoring well Web site to see how rain can change the levels in the wells at [www.water.usgs.gov/mo.nwis/current/?type=gw](http://www.water.usgs.gov/mo.nwis/current/?type=gw)

**Look for these words in your newspaper!**

Conserve  
Drink  
Groundwater  
Pollution  
Protect  
Stream Teams  
Volunteer  
Water

**✓ Check these Web sites out!**

*Drinking Water Kids' Stuff* - [www.epa.gov/water/kids](http://www.epa.gov/water/kids)  
*Stream Team* - [www.mostreamteam.org](http://www.mostreamteam.org)  
*Kids Corner* - [www.groundwater.org/KidsCorner/kidscorner.htm](http://www.groundwater.org/KidsCorner/kidscorner.htm)