



How to make a Tippy-Tap

A tippy-tap is a hygienic hand washing device with running water.

Constructing a tippy-tap is a fun cooperative learning activity for children of all primary school ages that can be made in your backyard or balcony.

Adult supervision is required, and you'll need to allow at least an hour.

What you'll need:

- Two wooden branches of approximately 2m length, with Y-shaped end.
- Two thinner sticks of approximately 1m length.
- A saw to cut the wood.
- A nail
- A pair of pliers
- A lighter
- A shovel
- Two lengths of rope (0.5m and 1m)
- A large container with a handle
- A bar of soap
- A screwdriver
- Some gravel

1. Prepare the wood

Cut two branches of wood of approximately 2m length, which have a Y-shape at the end.

Cut two thinner branches, each of approximately 1m length.

Attach a piece of string of approximately 1m length to one of the sticks.



2. Prepare the water container

Mark the location for the hole on the container, around 12cm below the cap.

Hold the nail with a pair of pliers and heat the nail with a lighter.

With the hot nail, gently make the hole in the container, and a second hole in the cap.



3. Attach the rope

Put the rope, which is attached to the stick, through the hole in the cap.

Make a knot in the rope which cannot pass through the hole.

Screw the cap back on the container. The stick is now connected to the container with the rope.



4. Put the soap on a rope

Using a screwdriver, make a hole through the soap by slowly rotating and pushing the screwdriver through the soap.

Put the second piece of rope through the hole in the soap and tie a piece of wood to it.



5. Construct the frame

Using a shovel, put the poles in the ground to a depth of 50cm.

The poles should be spaced about 70cm apart.



6. Putting it all together

Fill the container with water, up to the level of the hole.

Put the stick through the handle of the container and put the stick between the poles. Adjust the length of the rope so that the end of the stick is about 15cm above the ground.

Tie the rope with the soap to the stick.



7. Add a gravel soakaway

Between the two poles, below the container, dig a small hole of 40 x 40 cm, and 10 cm deep.

Fill the hole with gravel.

The water soaks away in the hole and prevents a mudhole from forming. The gravel also keeps mosquitos from breeding.



8. Use the tippy-tap

Push the stick down with your foot. This tips the container, which makes water run out of the small hole.

Wet your hands and release the stick.

Apply soap to your hands and wash thoroughly for 20 seconds.

Push the stick down again and rinse your hands clean.



World Vision is the largest non-government provider of safe water in the developing world.

We reach one person every 10 seconds with clean water.

We teach communities to make tippy-taps so they can wash their hands safely when they don't have a tap at home or nearby.