



Applying knowledge to improve water quality

Southern Regional Water Program

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Wetter Homes and Gardens

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Think you're a Water Wiz? Take the Water Quiz!

Wetter Homes and Gardens

You won't need pen or paper to take this quiz about water use in agriculture. Just start at #1, and follow the directions to the next station. Even a wizard might learn a thing or two about our most precious resource. Good Luck!



1 How much water must flow through a hydroelectric plant to light a 100-watt bulb for 10 hours?

400 gallons. Go to 5
4,000 gallons. Go to 7

2 Right. 8 acres, or 348,480 square feet

Go to 4

3 Not even close. It actually spreads to 8 acres, or 348,480 square feet. That's why you should never dump motor oil down a storm drain or on the ground. Recycle it with an auto supply retailer, or turn it in at a hazardous waste collection center.

Go to 4

4 Does a septic tank sterilize household wastewater?

Yes. Go to 10
No. Go to 8

5 Nope, you'd be left in the dark for nine hours. A 100-watt bulb would only burn for an hour on the electricity generated by 400 gallons of water.

Go to 7

6 If the oil in one car (about 4 quarts) is spilled into open water, how large will the oil slick be?

4,000 square feet. Go to 3
8 acres. Go to 2

7 Right. But only 3% of that water is consumed in the process. The rest flows back to the source and is available for other uses.

Go to 6

8 Correct-a-mundo. A septic tank is designed to hold and digest solids in wastewater, to prevent clogging the drain field.

Go to 11

9 No. Late evening watering reduces evaporation losses, but may promote grass diseases in your lawn. Early morning is better

Go to 15

10 Not at all. In fact, bacteria in a septic tank are necessary for proper treatment of wastewater. To keep the bacteria in top form, don't allow harsh chemicals, solvents, or pesticides to enter household waste water.

Go back to 4

11 How often should solids and sludge be pumped out of a septic tank?

Every 3 years. Go to 14
Every 7 years. Go to 12

12 No, that is too long in most cases. Tanks full of sludge may discharge solids to the leach field, clogging it and shortening its life span. Pumping the tank is usually cheaper than replacing the leach field.

Go to 14

13 What is the best time of day to water your lawn?

Late evening. Go to 9
Early morning. Go to 18

14 Properly sized tanks should be pumped every 1-3 years, but households that use large amounts of water, or dispose of large amounts of solids, may need to pump out the tank more often.

Go to 13

15 If water leaves rusty spots on your laundry, should you use chlorine bleach to remove them?

Yes. Go to 16
No. Go to 17

16 No way. If it is iron in the water that discolors clothing, chlorine bleach will make it worse. Use non-chlorine bleaches instead.

Go to 19

17 Right. Chlorine bleach oxidizes iron in water, making the problem even worse. Non-chlorine bleaches may be used instead.

Go to 19

18 Good. Either time reduces evaporation losses, but morning watering helps minimize grass diseases, because water doesn't stay on the leaves as long.

Go to 15

19 **Congratulations!** You made it through. And hopefully learned something in the process. Now take what you've learned and do your part to conserve and protect our water resources.

