

How to make a tippy tap

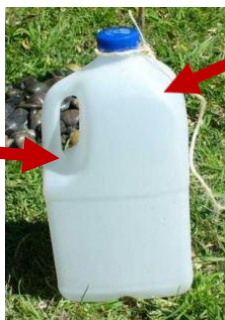
In many African countries, families build a simple device called a tippy-tap to wash their hands. It consists of a container mounted on a simple frame. Water is tipped from the container by tapping a foot lever. This means people can wash their hands without touching the stand when their hands are dirty.

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. (Source: <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/water-and-sanitation/>).

Thorough handwashing is also vital to protect against coronavirus and save lives.

Instructions

You will need: 4 long sticks (approx. 1.2m); 2 shorter sticks (approx. 90cm); stones; screwdriver; string; 3L milk container.



Step 1: Use a screwdriver to make two holes in the milk container. (Ask an adult to help.) Make one hole by the handle to let in air. Make a hole on the other side of the container to let water out.



Step 2: To make the frame, push two long sticks into the ground and tie them at the top with string. Repeat. Place a short stick on top.

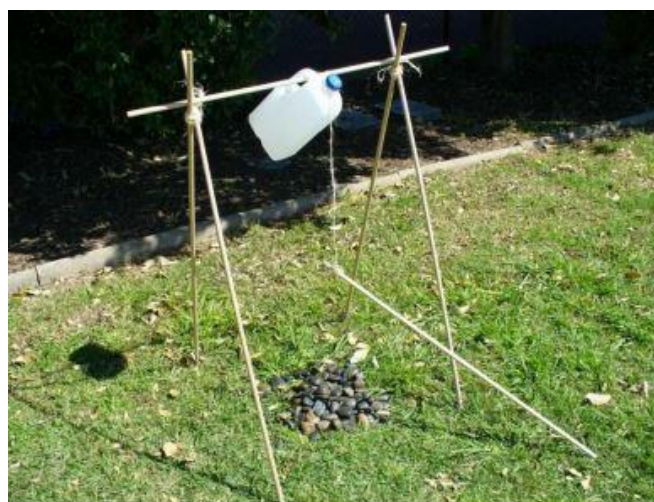
Step 3: Place stones on the ground in the middle to prevent puddles.



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 tap the short stick with your foot, the container will tip forward.

Now you are ready to wash your hands!



A community in Malawi demonstrates how to build a tippy tap in this [tippy tap video](#).