



A **FUN** activity for the whole family

# Make your own TIPPY TAP

**ADULT  
SUPERVISION  
required**

**Washing your hands with soap and clean water** is the best way to prevent the spread of germs and viruses. We usually do this at a tap in the yard or in the house. *But there are not always taps everywhere.*

A good idea is to create a **Tippy Tap** to use in and around the house where adults and children can wash their hands regularly with clean water. A *Tippy Tap* is a simple creation out of no-cost materials that you can make with your children and it works like a small tap. There are many different types of *Tippy Taps* but here we are only showing how to make one specific type that is easy to use inside the house and outside.

The best news is that it also helps to save water, as a *Tippy Tap* uses less water at a time than an ordinary tap.

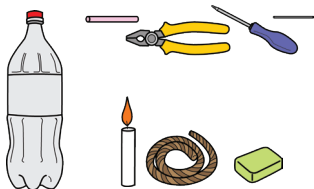
### STEP 1

#### Get everything you need

You need the following:

1. Plastic bottle with a screw top (for example an empty 2-liter cold drink bottle).
2. A plastic tube
3. Pen
4. Small piece of cloth
5. Screwdriver or small knife.
6. Nail or short piece of strong metal wire
7. Candle
8. Matches
9. Rope or string
10. Bar of soap

When you have all of these things, *you are ready to make a Tippy Tap.*



### STEP 2

#### Clean the bottle



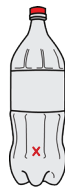
Clean the bottle well. Remember we need to wash our hands with **clean water**.

### STEP 3

#### Make a hole in the bottle

You need to make a **small hole** about two fingers width (5 cm) from the bottom of the bottle like this:

1. Mark the with a pen the spot where you are going to make the hole in the bottle.
2. Hold the bottle firm or ask someone to help you to hold it firm, so that you can make the little hole.



3. Light a candle to heat the sharp end of the nail or wire. But don't do it yet!



4. Use a plier or a piece of cloth to hold onto the nail to hold on the opposite end of from the one that will be heated. The nail or wire is metal that will get hot all the way and may burn you. Be sure that you hold it firm.
5. Heat the sharp end over the flame until it is very hot. Be careful not to burn yourself or others.
6. Use the nail to make a small hole in the lower part of the bottle where you have made a mark with the pen. Press the hot end through the plastic and pull it back when there is a hole.

**Remember** the nail may still be **hot**. Put it in water or sand to cool down quickly.

### STEP 4

#### Put the parts together

1. Push the plastic tube through the hole of the bottle. Make sure that the tube fits tightly. No water should be able to leak on the sides of the tube.
2. Tie a piece of rope around the neck of the bottle. Be sure that you do this below the area where the cap screws on. The rope should be long enough so that the bottle can hang from it.
3. Fill the bottle with clean water until it is about 5 cm from the top. Put the cap back on tightly. Not too tight, as you need to be able to loosen it later.



**Remember** to do the filling quickly, as water will flow from the tube in the hole below while filling the bottle. Try to do it in a way that will not allow for the water to flow from the tube.

#### The secret is in the cap

- When the cap is *closed tightly*, no water will flow from the tube.
- When you *loosen the cap* of the bottle slightly, the water will start to flow from the tube below. Play a bit around to see how many times you have to turn the cap for the water to flow. You do not have to open it too much and remember the cap does not have to go completely off.
- To stop the water, simply *close the cap* tightly again.

**Now you have a Tippy Tap – but only the clean water part. We also need soap nearby.**

### STEP 5

#### Soap-on-a-rope

1. Take an ordinary bar of soap and make a hole in the middle with a screwdriver or a sharp object (**do not** let small children assist with this and be careful yourself). Work slowly. It takes a bit of time.
2. Put the string through the hole and tie a super large knot at the bottom so that the string does not pull through. You can also thread that end through a big old button.



### STEP 6

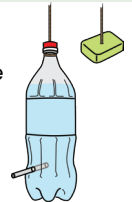
#### Ready to use

Now you are ready to use your Tippy Tap inside or outside the house. Here are a few suggestions:

**Inside:** Place it *near the toilet or kitchen* where everybody can reach the top.

Or put it on a *shelf*. **Tie the soap on the rope nearby.** It helps that it does not get lost or fall. If necessary, place a small bowl below the *Tippy Tap* to catch water that may drip from the tube.

**Outside:** You can place it at your *front door* for everybody to wash their hands before they come into the house, or *where the children play* so that they can wash their hands often. For example, *hang it on a tree* and tie the soap close to it.



### STEP 7

#### Wash hands

**Remember** to teach your children how to wash their hands properly with soap and clean water.

### TAKING CARE OF YOUR TIPPY TAP

Refill the *Tippy Tap* when it is empty.

Wash the **cap** regularly to make sure that it stays clean.

**This is a fun family activity and you can make many Tippy Taps. It is also a smart way to save water.**