

# Tippy Taps

## Discover Information

A simple means by which to drastically reduce the incidence of diarrhoea and respiratory infections.



The ideal places for a tippy tap are outside the toilet and where meals are taken. This tippy tap belongs to a household in Kenya.



Training seminar in Machakos, Kenya. The tippy tap hangs from a branch on the tree.



A child uses the tippy tap in Adaklu Anfoe. The plastic bag, a disused water bag, is used as a soap container.

### Advantages:

- It is made from locally available materials.
  - It is very simple to make and maintain.
  - The waste water soaks into the ground.
  - It uses only 75 cc of water to wash your hands, compared with 500 cc using a mug, which is the usual method in rural Africa.
  - It is ideal in rural areas where there is no running water.
  - It is operated by a foot lever. The user touches only the soap. This no bacteria are transmitted via the tap itself.
- It is even fun to wash your hands using a tippy tap!



## How to make: a Tippy Tap

A tippy tap makes washing hands easy and saves water.

**Materials needed**

- Pegs
- 5-litre jerry can
- String and wire
- Soap
- Water

**Use:**  
By latrines  
Before cooking  
Before eating

**Step by Step**

1. Make the frame with pegs.
2. Hang the jerry can from the frame. Make a hole in the jerry can for the water to come out.
3. Attach the jerry can to the frame with a wire.
4. Add the jerry can to the frame with a wire.

**Why is it called a Tippy Tap?**  
When you Tip the jerry can it becomes a Tippy Tap!

**Washing hands often stops diseases like diarrhoea**

**Better hygiene for you and your children**

**Saves water**

**In some areas these are so popular that people are making tippy-taps for selling!**  
Titus, Kyenjojo



This tippy tap was erected in less than 10 minutes so that the participants in a training event in Ghana could wash their hands before lunch.



On Rusinga Island in Kenya, where people were excited by the new experience of being able to wash their hands whenever they wanted!



This tippy tap was constructed during a SALEM training seminar in Togo in 2014. Note the hole under the tippy-tap which is filled with stones to make a soakaway.

## Stories:

### Nakpayili, Northern Region, Ghana

The CHIPS team have introduced tippy taps to 25 schools in their district. They teach the children about hygiene and how to wash their hands thoroughly.

The pilot school for hand washing with tippy taps was Lankani Primary School. After six months the school reported that the number of pupils who suffered diarrhoea and stomach pains reduced to almost zero. Further, the pupils also learnt to wash their hands at home after visiting the toilet and before eating.

The District Sanitation Officer (DSO) visited the CHIPS team to discuss Community Led Total Sanitation (CLTS). The DSO has now engaged our team in the production and distribution of the tippy taps throughout the entire district.

### Rusinga Island, Lake Victoria, Kenya.

"Most people were astonished how little water is needed to wash the hands effectively. We had to fill the tippy tap again and again, because people liked washing their hands so much."

### Homa Bay County, Kenya

Earlier in 2015 there was an outbreak of cholera. The public health officers advised and even forced the public to wash their hands at all times under running water. Those many people who had no running water were advised to install a tippy tap. Tippy taps were also installed at many gatherings such as funerals, weddings and churches.

### Adakdu Anfoe, Volta Region, Ghana

In December 2013 in this village we taught how to wash the hands thoroughly. Then we demonstrated the tippy tap. Everyone enjoyed trying it out. Then a teacher said, "please can we have a tippy tap for the children as well?" We explained that one can hang several tippy taps side by side, or even at different heights. "Wonderful" said the teacher, "you know the children are often sick and they vomit into their hands. But there is no facility for them to wash their hands, so they simply shake their hands until they are dry!"



For us in Germany running water is no longer a luxury. We take it for granted. In many parts of rural Africa the situation is quite different. Water must sometimes be carried long distances, often on women's heads. Water for cooking and drinking takes priority, then for bathing. Regular hand-washing, before eating or after using the toilet, is often a lower priority.

Discover supports trainers in Africa who introduce the basics of hygiene and nutrition to rural communities thus saving lives and increasing a sense of well-being in the community.

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