

# Tippy-Tap

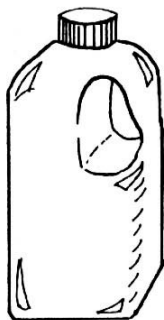
*A simple low-cost technology for handwashing when water is scarce*



Studies have shown that proper hand-washing with soap or ash can reduce the incidence of diarrhoeal disease by 42-47 percent<sup>1</sup>. However, lack of access to both piped water supply and soap, is a barrier to hand washing. "Tippy Taps" are simple and economical hand-washing stations, made with commonly available materials and not dependent on a piped water supply. This publication describes how to construct and maintain a Tippy Tap.

**TIPPY TAPS CAN BE MADE FROM A VARIETY OF LOCAL MATERIALS, INCLUDING CAST OFF PLASTIC CONTAINERS, JERRY CANS OR GOURDS. BE CREATIVE! BELOW ARE INSTRUCTIONS USING A 5 LITRE JUG.**

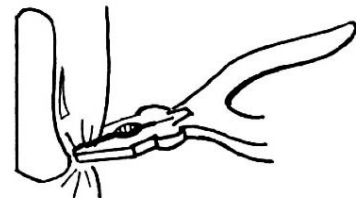
## Tippy Tap Construction



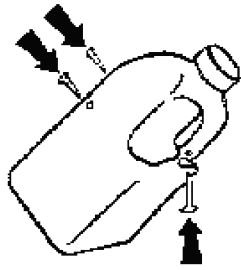
1. First, select a plastic container of approximately 5 liters, or 1.5 gallons, with a handle.



2. Then, warm the base of the handle with a candle until the plastic is soft.

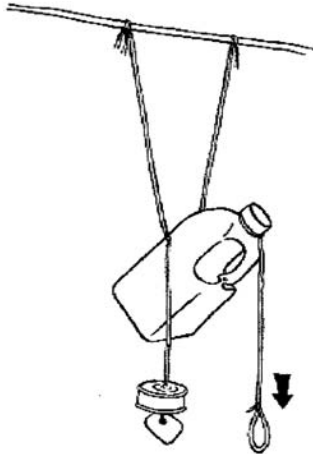


3. When the base is soft, pinch the base closed with a pair of pliers and then let it cool. Make sure that no water can flow through the pinch-closed base.



- Heat the point of a small nail over a candle. Use the hot nail to make a small hole on the outside edge of the handle, just above the sealed area. Heat the nail again and make two larger holes on the back of the bottle. The holes should be about half way up the bottle and about a thumb-width apart. These holes will be used to thread string to hang the tippy tap. The holes need to be wide enough apart to hold the string and to be positioned so that the "full" bottle hangs at a 45 degree angle. (This picture shows a 45 degree angle.)

## To Install and Use a Tippy Tap



- Hang the Tippy Tap near a latrine, kitchen, or school. Thread the string through the two holes and tie the ends of the string to a stick, a tree or stable support.

Thread a bar of soap and an empty tin can (the lid facing upwards) through another piece of string. The tin will protect the soap from rain and sun. Attach the "soap and tin" string to one of the top supporting strings. Tie a separate piece of string to the the bottle cap and leave the string hanging. This string can be pulled to tip the tippy tap over for water to come out the hole in the handle.

- Pour water into the tippy tap until the water is almost level with the holes in the back of the bottle. **The tippy tap is now ready for use.**
- Use the handle or the cap to tip the container and allow water to flow out of the hole onto your hands.

**Always wash with soap or ash!**

## Recommendations for Tippy Tap Maintenance



- Clean the outside of the Tippy Tap with a brush and soap daily, and clean the inside of the Tippy Tap once per week with clean water and disinfectant.

*The above was adapted from the CDC website, [www.cdc.gov/safewater](http://www.cdc.gov/safewater). The original gourd tippy tap was designed by Dr. Jim Watt and Jackson Masawi at the University of Zimbabwe's rural centre. The plastic tippy tap was designed by Ralph Garnet and Dr. Jim Watt in Canada. We would like to thank CIDEPTA and PAHO for the figures and source material.*

1. Curtis, Val and Sandy Cairncross (2003). "Effect of washing hands with soap on diarrhoea risk in the community, a systemic review." *The Lancet: Infectious Diseases*, Volume 3, May 2003.