

Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention

Hand washing facility options for resource limited settings



There is evidence that hand washing is effective in reducing non-pathogen-specific gastrointestinal and respiratory illnesses in community settings.¹

Preventive measures such as good hand and respiratory hygiene and maintaining physical distance are effective for preventing the spread of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19).²

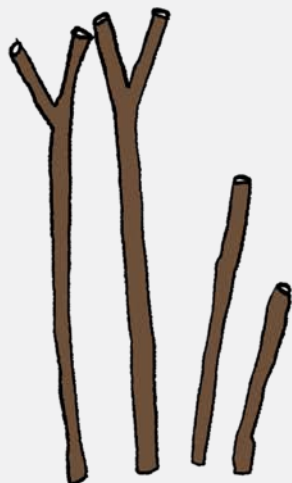
More than 50% of people in many African countries are without access to a basic water supply (3), which is a barrier to hand-washing. In particular, people living in rural settings, densely populated urban areas, and informal settlements such as refugee camps may be more heavily impacted by the lack of access to running water and hand washing stations.

Having access to hand washing stations can improve the habit of correct hand washing by making it more feasible.

This document provides guidance to AU Member States, states/local bodies, and communities on how to construct and maintain non-contact hand washing stations like **Tippy Taps** and other alternative hand washing stations.

List of materials needed

2 forked sticks
2 shorter sticks (1 for bar
and 1 for foot pedal)



Plastic container
(5L or 1.5 gallons)
with handle and screw cap



Bar of soap



String

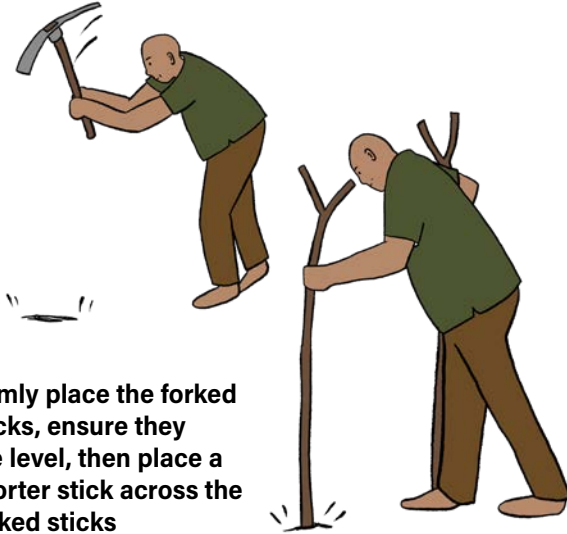


Nail



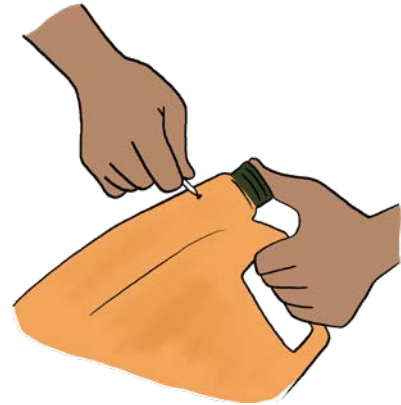
How to construct a Tippy Tap

- 1** Dig two holes 18in deep and about 2ft apart.

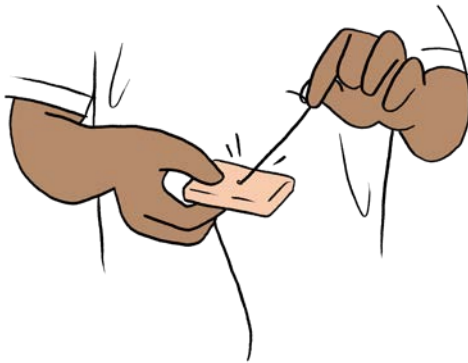


Firmly place the forked sticks, ensure they are level, then place a shorter stick across the forked sticks

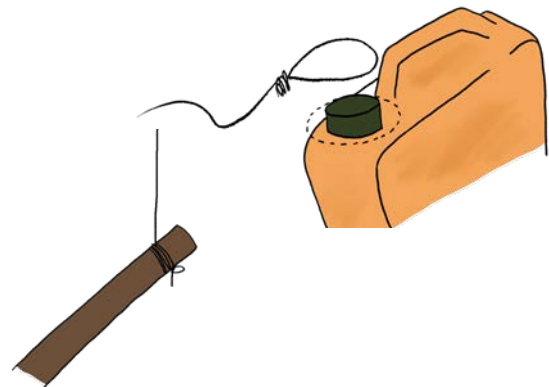
- 2** Using a hot nail, make a 2 millimeter hole in the container



- 3** Make a hole in the soap and thread/pass a string through the hole



- 4** Attach a long string to water container's cap, attach the other end to foot lever stick/foot pedal



- 5** Hang soap and container on a hanging bar or available surface and fill with water



- 6** Use the foot lever to tip the container and allow water to flow out of the hole onto your hands.



Use soap every time you wash your hands

ALTERNATIVE HAND WASHING STATION OPTIONS

Alternatives to hand washing sinks or Tippy Taps can be created with readily available containers (e.g. 20 litre water bottles, 40 litre buckets or drums with lids) that can provide a small outlet such that a tap /plastic turn handle or sprout can be attached for the used water to flow out of.

TO MAINTAIN ENVIRONMENTAL HYGIENE

The bottle, bucket or drum with lid should be placed on a stool and a plastic receptacle should be placed on the ground to collect wastewater.

There should be a liquid soap dispenser placed beside the water container or bar soap to be used every time you wash your hands.



MAINTENANCE OF TIPPY TAPS

(and alternative hand washing stations)

1. Ensure there is water in the container/bucket/drum.
2. Fill up with water using a hose connected to a clean source of water.
3. Clean the outside of the container/bucket/drum with a brush, disposable/reusable cloths, and soap daily.
4. Empty the container/bucket/drum and clean the inside once every week with clean water and household disinfectant such as 1% household chlorine bleach.
5. Drain after cleaning and fill up for the next use.

References

1. Moncion K, Young K, Tunis M, Rempel S, Stirling R, Zhao L. Hand hygiene to prevent influenza infections. CCDR. 2019 Jan 3;45:1.
2. What you should know about the 2019 novel Coronavirus Disease- AFRICA CDC <https://africacdc.org/download/what-you-should-know-about-the-2019-novel-coronavirus-disease/>
3. Progress on household drinking water, sanitation and hygiene, 2000-2017 - UNICEF DATA <https://data.unicef.org/resources/progress-drinking-water-sanitation-hygiene-2019/#>

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