

World Oceans Day

TOP 10 WAYS TO BE “BLUE”

Zoo guests like you know more about conservation than most people. Discover even more!

1. Thirsty Lawns

An average lawn adds up to 100,000 gallons a year on your water bill – the same as flushing a toilet over 170 times every day for a year. Trim your water bill by evaluating space needs and replacing excess grass with native plants and flowers. They thrive in regular rainfall and need less upkeep than grass.

2. H₂O at Home

Modern low-flow showerheads can save a family of four up to 20,000 gallons of water a year while still providing an invigorating shower. Increase savings by taking shorter showers and turning off the faucet when brushing your teeth. Test the water-saving setting on your dishwasher to see if it works for your family. These changes also lower your energy bill as heated water isn't running down the drain.

3. Cold Drinks

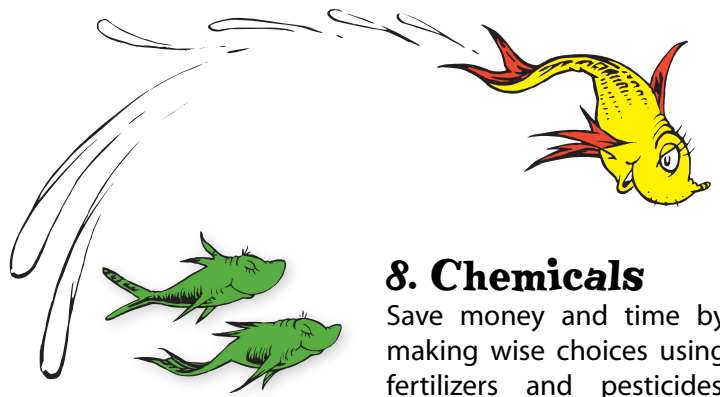
Ever find yourself standing around running the faucet waiting to get a drink of cold water? Get a colder drink faster by filling a pitcher and keeping it in the refrigerator.

4. Safe Water

Many storm sewers drain directly to a local water source. Paint, oil, and other household waste dumped in them ends up in our water – affecting all of us plus plants and animals.

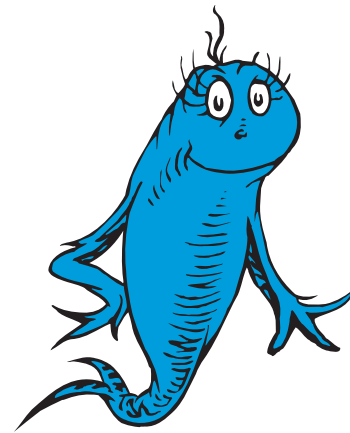
5. Doggy Doo

Animal waste is a big factor in bacterial contamination of streams, rivers, and lakes resulting in beach closings. When walking your dog, be sure to bring along a plastic bag or pooper-scooper. Relationships with both your human and aquatic neighbors will be the better for it.



6. Eat Smart

Many fisheries are at risk – as are livelihoods of the people who earn a living on the sea. To meet consumer demand, some fish are being caught faster than they can reproduce. Sea turtles and dolphins are accidentally caught in nets. You can help by enjoying seafood that is caught or raised sustainably. Find out how with a free Seafood Watch card from the Zoo.



8. Chemicals

Save money and time by making wise choices using fertilizers and pesticides. Excess runoff from lawns pollutes rivers and oceans poisoning amphibians, fish, and other creatures as well as closing lakes and bays for swimming and fishing.

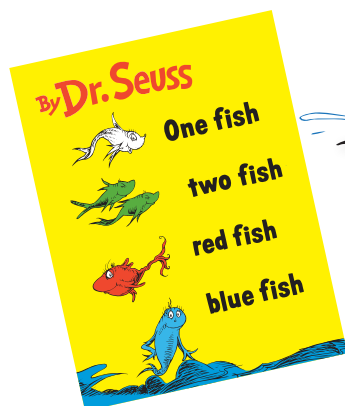
9. Plan Trips

By planning and combining trips, you save time and gas money by driving less. You'll also help ocean life and everyone who lives or vacation along the coasts. The massive coral reef die-offs occurring are caused in part by climate change, which scientists attribute in part to burning fossil fuels. Reefs help protect coastal communities from weather disasters, bring tourism dollars, and provide food for millions. Adjusting the thermostat a degree or two helps in the same way!

10. Learn More

Almost every day researchers gain new understanding about our rivers, lakes, and oceans and the wondrous life they contain. Explore your local aquarium or zoo to discover for yourself some of these wonders so you can make informed decisions about our water planet for yourself, your children, and your children's children.

Besides making an area ugly, garbage kills an estimated 100,000 marine mammals and sea turtles and one million birds each year. Ordinary trash like fishing line, balloons, and plastic bags choke animals. Discard trash properly and recycle plastic bags. Better yet, keep re-usable bags in the car for shopping to help save seals, birds, and more!



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