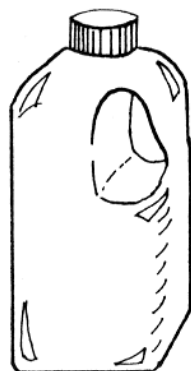


# Tippy Taps

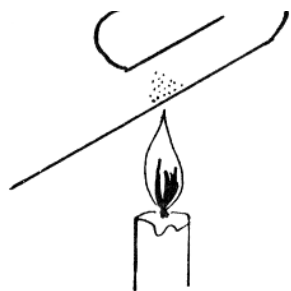
A design for simple, economical, and effective hand-washing stations

Studies have shown that proper hand-washing techniques can reduce the incidence of diarrheal disease by 42-47 percent<sup>1</sup>. However, lack of access to both piped water supply and soap, especially in schools, is a barrier to hand-washing in the developing world. "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 and was adapted from the *Uso y Calidad del Agua en la Escuela* pamphlet published in September 1995 by the Centro de Investigación, Desarrollo, Evaluación y Promoción de Tecnología Apropiaada (CIDEPTA) and the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO).

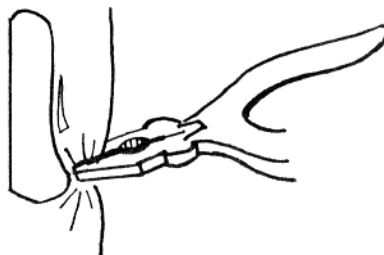
## Tippy Tap Construction



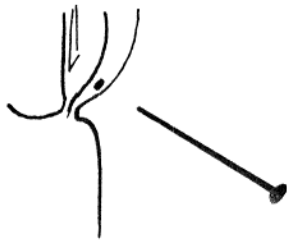
1. First, select a plastic container of approximately 5 liters, or 1.5 gallons, with a handle.



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.



4. With a hot nail, make a 2 millimeter hole just above the pinch-closed base of the handle.

5. With a plastic net, suspend the bottle from a metal support. Let one piece of plastic hang down to suspend the soap from. \*



6. Make a hole in the center of a bar of soap. From the hanging piece of plastic, suspend with a string the soap and a plastic or metal cover (such as a tin can) to protect it from sun and rain.

\* If a net is not available, two holes can be made in the back of

the bottle, and the Tippy Tap can be suspended by connecting a string through those holes to the support.

### To Install and Use a Tippy Tap

- Hang the Tippy Tap near a latrine, kitchen, or school.
- Use the handle to tip the container and allow water to flow out of the hole onto your hands. Use soap every time you wash your hands!

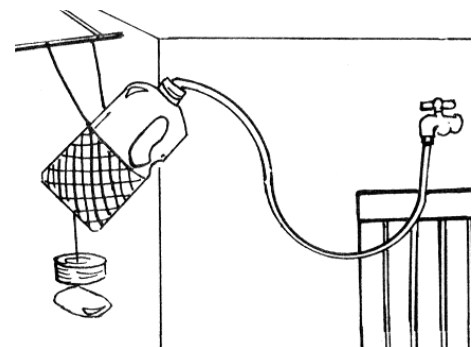


### Recommendations for Tippy Tap Maintenance

- If there is a water tap present, a hose can be used to fill the Tippy Tap.



- 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.



If you have any questions on Tippy Taps, or about safe water and sanitation in the developing world, please contact the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Foodborne and Diarrheal Disease Branch, at [safewater@cdc.gov](mailto:safewater@cdc.gov) or visit <http://www.cdc.gov/safewater>. 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.