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Because the Earth is 71% water, many people fail to grasp the true importance of water conservation — if the Earth has that much water, why should we be diligent in watching how much we use each day? While our planet is mostly water, almost all of that water is saline water, or salt water. Salt water is not fit for human consumption. Only about 1% of Earth's water is safe to drink, cook with, etc., thus explaining why it is so important that we use it wisely. Proper water conservation aids in keeping our environment healthy, safe, and clean, as well in keeping the financial expense of water usage to a minimum.

In coastal areas/beaches, it is especially important for the inhabitants to conserve water. These areas are typically surrounded by oceans, gulfs, and/or seas; however, they are all salt water bodies — not freshwater, which is the type humans can consume safely. The people that live in these areas must use water wisely to avoid excess runoff and/or wastewater from flowing into our oceans. In doing so, our oceans and their marine life have a better chance at remaining healthy, safe, and clean.

Keeping our oceans clean is equally as important as limiting our water usage: without clean, healthy oceans, where would we find water? How would we fish, swim, or surf? To help keep our oceans clean and usable, we must take intentional actions, such as reducing the amount of trash/waste we produce by using organic/biodegradable products, recycling when possible, and cleaning up after ourselves. Making sure to fish and boat responsibly also helps protect our oceans, as well as limiting our energy usage, vehicular pollution, and carbon footprint. Many steps can be taken to keep our oceans healthy, and they are all absolutely necessary!

However, water conservation is important regardless of where



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you live. Fresh, clean water is a limited resource, especially because the world's population is constantly growing, and our water supply is not! Safe, consumable water is not only a limited resource, it is also a costly one. Desalination, or the process of making salt water drinkable, is expensive, not to mention the amount of energy it takes and the negative environmental effects it causes. Water can also be costly when used in great abundances (water bill). So, to avoid financial struggle, we should try to only use as much water as we need!

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Going along with the financial aspect of water conservation, when water shortages occur, the price of fresh water (to drink, cook with, swim in, etc.) rises. If water supply is kept at a sufficient level due to responsible moderation, there will be no influx in prices.

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Water conservation is also beneficial in preparing for future droughts. By using water wisely and in moderation during normal, healthy environmental conditions, we protect ourselves from being completely crippled by a potential water shortage.

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There are an abundance of reasons to preserve water, but a few of the most important are these: drinkable water is a limited, costly resource; our oceans can be contaminated by wastewater/excess runoff produced by an overuse of water; and conserving water aids in protecting against immense damage/loss in the event that a drought occurs in the future. There are far more reasons to try to save water than there is to be irresponsible and wasteful, so what is the harm in giving moderation a shot?