



## What can you do to help Sharkee in his quest to “Save the Wave”

### “Save the Wave”

Did you know that water is the most abundant resource on earth? In fact over 70% of the earth is covered by water. However, only about 1% of all water is available to humans. Water is an essential part of daily living. Not only do we drink water, but water can also be used as a source of fun such as fishing, boating and swimming.

Below are a few things you can do to help Sharkee  
“Save the Wave”

- When doing laundry, match the water level to the size of the load.
- Time your shower to keep it under 5 minutes. You'll save up to 1000 gallons a month.
- If your shower can fill a one-gallon bucket in less than 20 seconds, then replace it with a water-efficient showerhead
- Make sure you turn the faucets off tightly after each use.
- Turn off the water while you brush your teeth and save 4 gallons a minute. That's 200 gallons a week for a family of four.
- Encourage your friends and neighbors to be part of a water-conscious community.

## **“Only Rain Down the Drain”**

Have you ever wondered where all that water goes after a big rain storm? All that water has to go somewhere. The ground will try to soak up as much water as possible, but if it is not able to soak up any more, the water will start to travel down hill and eventually flow down a storm drain.

Unlike the water that goes down your drain in your house, water that flows into storm drains is not treated and filtered for pollutants. This contaminated water flows into canals, streams and lakes. Then it ends up in the ocean, polluting fish habitats in the process.

This also means that whatever we put down these storm drains winds up in the lakes, streams and the oceans that we go boating, fishing and swimming in.

Below are ways you can help make sure that “Only Rain Goes Down the Drain”:

- Keep litter, pet wastes, leaves, and debris out of street gutters and storm drains--these outlets drain directly to lake, streams, rivers, and wetlands.
- Apply lawn and garden chemicals sparingly and according to directions.
- Dispose of used oil, antifreeze, paints, and other household chemicals properly, not in storm sewers or drains. If your community does not already have a program for collecting household hazardous wastes, ask your local government to establish one.

## **“Sharkee’s Sort and Save”**

### **Sharkee’s Shocking Recycling Facts**

- Recycling one aluminum can saves enough energy to run a TV for three hours -- or the equivalent of a half a gallon of gasoline.
- Once an aluminum can is recycled, it can be part of a new can within six weeks.
- An aluminum can that is thrown away will still be a can 500 years from now!
- We use over 80 billion aluminum soda cans every year.
- The average American uses seven trees a year in paper, wood, and other products made from trees. This amounts to about 2 billion trees per year!
- Approximately 1 billion trees worth of paper are thrown away every year in the U.S.
- Americans throw away 25 million plastic beverage bottles every hour!
- A modern glass bottle would take 4,000 years or more to decompose -- and even longer if it's in the landfill.
- A single quart of motor oil, if disposed of improperly, can contaminate up to 2 million gallons of fresh water.

**“Seafood WATCH—Making Choices for Healthy Oceans”**

What you choose to eat from the sea can make a difference. Use the Seafood Guides to help make choices that are good for you and for the oceans.