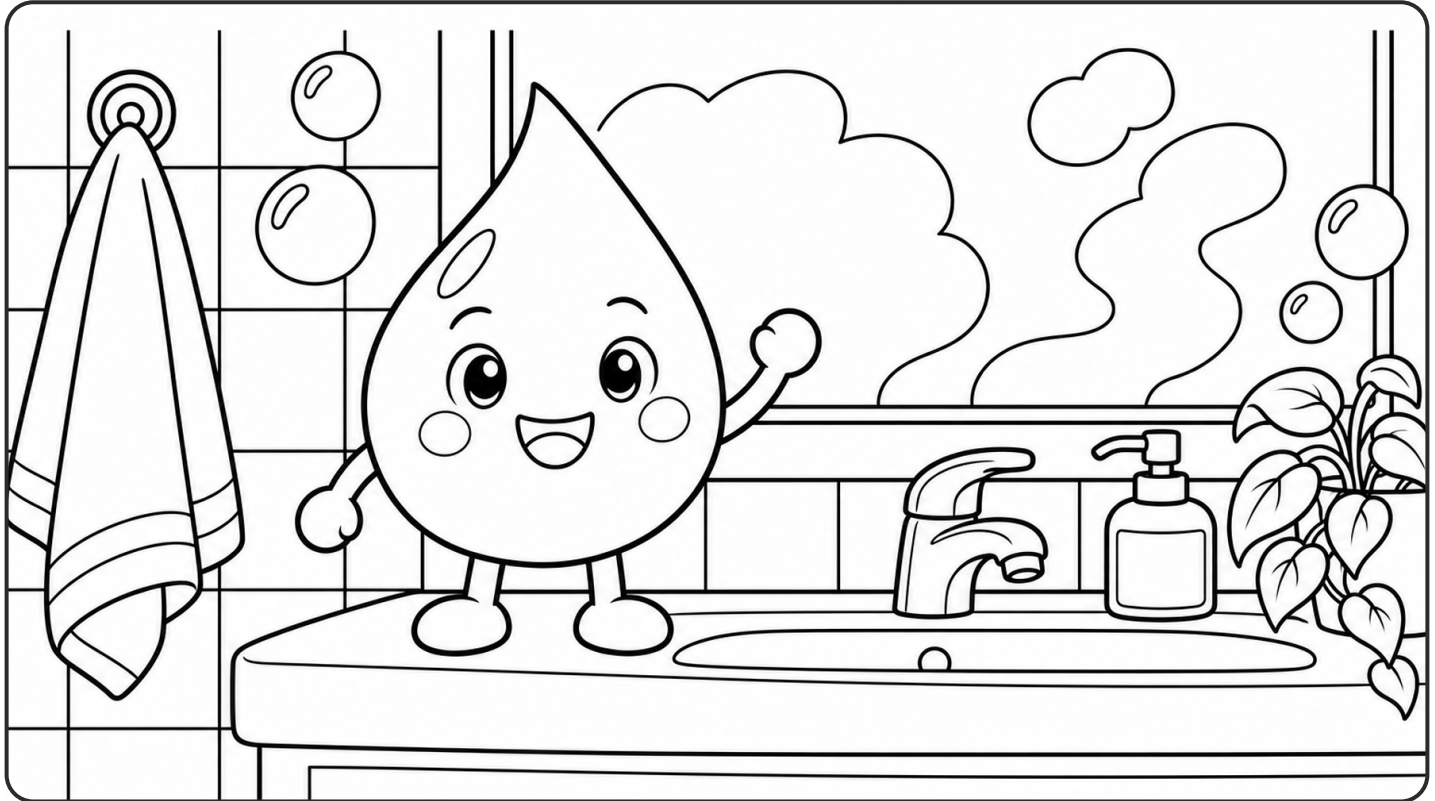


Why does the bathroom mirror get foggy after a shower?



I take a nice hot shower. When I step out, the mirror is all foggy, and I cannot see my face! Why does the bathroom mirror get foggy?



Why?

1. Hot water sends tiny water bits into the air.

Water is made of teeny tiny water bits, and they are always wiggling. When water is hot, some bits wiggle so fast that they fly off into the air, as a gas you cannot see. It is called water vapor. A hot shower fills the whole bathroom with them.

2. On the cool glass, the water bits slow down and stick.

The mirror is much cooler than the warm, wet air. When the flying water bits bump into it, they lose their heat and slow down, so they cannot fly anymore. They huddle together and turn into thousands of tiny drops.

3. Tiny drops make a white blur.

Each little drop bends the light in a different direction. So the mirror cannot show a clear picture anymore. That is the fog!

Try it! Breathe on a mirror

You need: a small mirror or a spoon

1. Hold a small mirror or a spoon close to your mouth, and breathe out slowly. Haaa! It gets foggy.
2. Now watch closely. How fast does the fog go away?
3. Then draw a smiley face in the fog on the bathroom mirror!

What happened? Your warm breath has water bits in it.

On the cool glass they turn back into tiny drops, just like after a shower.

Video + more questions:
whywhywhykids.com/mirror



scan with a grown-up