

Protecting Our World Living Green – Living Clean

Water Conservation

Facts and Strategies

1. The amount of water on Earth now is about the same as it was millions of years ago.
2. Water regulates the Earth's temperature. It also regulates the temperature of the human body.
3. Less than 2% of the Earth's water supply is fresh water.
4. Of all the earth's water, 97% is salt water found in oceans and seas. Only 1% of the earth's water is available for drinking water. The remaining 2% is frozen.
5. The human body is about 75% water.
6. A person can survive about a month without food, but only 5 to 7 days without water.
7. Every day in the United States, we drink about 110 million gallons of water.
8. Landscaping accounts for about half the water used at home. Showers account for another 18 percent, while toilets use about 20 percent.
9. Showering and bathing are the largest indoor uses (27%) of water domestically.
10. The average American uses 50 to 170 gallons of water per day.
11. There are 7.48 gallons in a cubic foot of water. Therefore, 2000 cubic feet of water is 14,560 gallons.
12. An acre foot of water is about 326,000 gallons. One-half acre foot is enough to meet the needs of a typical family for a year.
13. It takes 3.3 acre feet of water to grow enough food for an average family for a year.
14. A leaky faucet can waste 100 gallons a day.
15. If every household in America had a faucet that dripped once each second, 928 million gallons of water a day would leak away.
16. One flush of the toilet uses 6 ½ gallons of water.

17. An average family of four uses 881 gallons of water per week just by flushing the toilet.
18. Avoid flushing the toilet unnecessarily. Dispose of tissues, insects and other such waste in the trash rather than the toilet.
19. An average bath requires 37 gallons of water.
20. The average 5-minute shower takes 15 to 25 gallons water – around 40 gallons are used in 10 minutes.
21. Take short showers instead of baths.
22. You use about 5 gallons of water if you leave the water running while brushing your teeth or shaving.
23. The use of water-saving toilets, showerheads, and faucet aerators can result in a 45% savings in water use.
24. Each person needs to drink about 2 ½ quarts (80 ounces) of water every day.
25. Store drinking water in the refrigerator rather than letting the faucet run every time you want a cool glass of water.
26. You don't need to buy bottled water for health reasons if your drinking water meets all of the federal, state and local drinking water standards. Bottled water can cost up to 1000 times more than municipal drinking water.
27. You can refill an 8-oz. glass of water approximately 15,000 times for the same cost as a six-pack of soda pop.
28. A dairy cow must drink 4 gallons of water to produce 1 gallon of milk.
29. Run your dishwasher and washing machine only when they are full.
30. A top-loading clothes washer uses between 40 and 55 gallons of water per load. Front-loading models use roughly half that amount.
31. When washing dishes by hand, fill one sink or basin with soapy water. Quickly rinse under a slow-moving stream from the faucet.
32. Never put water down the drain when there may be another use for it such as watering a plant or garden, or cleaning.
33. An automatic dishwasher uses 9 to 12 gallons of water while hand washing dishes can use up to 20 gallons.

34. Use a bowl of water to clean fruits and vegetables rather than running water over them. You can reuse this for your houseplants.
35. If you water your grass and trees more heavily, but less often, this saves water and builds stronger roots.
36. Water your lawn only when it needs it. If you step on the grass and it springs back up when you move, it doesn't need water. If it stays flat, it does need water.
37. Water lawns during the early morning hours or evening when temperatures and wind speed are the lowest. This reduces losses from evaporation. .
38. Running a sprinkler for 2 hours can use up to 500 gallons of water. Up to 90% of water used to sprinkle lawns can be lost to the atmosphere through evaporation
39. Use a rain catch system (rain barrel) and use natural rain water for watering in the yard
40. Do not hose down your driveway or sidewalk. Use a broom to clean leaves and other debris from these areas. Using a hose to clean a driveway uses about 50 gallons of water every 5 minutes.
41. When washing a car, use soap and water from a bucket. Use a hose with a shut-off nozzle for rinsing. As much as 150 gallons of water can be saved by turning off the hose between rinses.
42. Public water suppliers process 38 billion gallons of water per day for domestic and public use.
43. Approximately 1 million miles of pipelines and aqueducts carry water in the United States and Canada. That's enough pipe to circle the earth 40 times.
44. About 800,000 water wells are drilled each year in the United States for domestic, farming, commercial, and water testing purposes.
45. More than 13 million households get their water from their own private wells and are responsible for treating and pumping the water themselves.
46. Industries released 197 million pounds of toxic chemicals into waterways in 1990.
47. 300 million gallons of water are needed to produce a single day's supply of U. S. newsprint.
48. One inch of rainfall drops 7,000 gallons or nearly 30 tons of water on a 60' by 180' piece of land.

Source: *Sunnyslope County Water District – California*

Water Trivia Questions

1. How long can a person live without food? About a month
2. How long can a person live without water? Approximately 1 week, depending upon conditions
3. How much of the human body is water? About two-thirds or 65%
4. How much of your skin is water? 70%
5. How much of the human brain is water? 75%
6. How much of a living tree is water? 75%
7. How much of a pineapple is water? 80%
8. How much of a tomato is water? 95%
9. How much of an ear of corn is water? 80%
10. How much of a chicken is water? 75%
11. How much of an earthworm is water? 80%
12. How much of an elephant is water? 70%
13. How much of the earth's surface is water? 75%
14. Of all the earth's water, how much is ocean or seas? 97%
15. How much of the world's water is frozen and therefore unusable? 2%
16. How much of the earth's water is suitable for drinking water? 1%
17. Is it possible for me to drink water that was part of the dinosaur era? Yes, water is constantly recycled
18. What is the most common substance found on earth? Water
19. What does a person pay for water on a daily basis? National average is 25 cents
20. How many households use private wells for their water supply? More than 13 million
21. How many gallons of water would it take to cover 1 cubic mile of water? 1.1 trillion gallons
22. How many gallons of water do you get in one inch of rain per square mile? 17.4 million gallons or almost the equivalent of all consumptive use of water in Washington, D. C. for 1 day
23. How much water does a birch tree give off per day in evaporation? 70 gallons
24. How much water does an acre of corn give off per day in evaporation? 4,000 gallons
25. How much water does it take to produce a quarter pound of hamburger meat? Approximately 1 gallon
26. How much water does it take to produce one ton of steel? 62,600 gallons
27. How much water does it take to produce four new tires? 2,072 gallons
28. How much water does it take to process 1 chicken? 11.6 gallons
29. How much water does it take to process a pound of meat? 3.6 gallons
30. What is the total amount of water used to manufacture a new car, including new tires? 39,090 gallons per car
31. How much water does it take to process 1 can of fruit or vegetables? 9.3 gallons
32. How much water does it take to process 1 ton of cane sugar to processed sugar? 28,100 gallons
33. How much water does it take to process 1 ton of beet sugar to processed sugar? 33,100 gallons
34. How much water does it take to process 1 barrel of beer? 1,500 gallons
35. How much water does it take to make 1 board foot of lumber? 5.4 gallons
36. How much water does it take to make 1 pound of plastic? 24 gallons
37. How much water does it take to make 1 pound of synthetic rubber? 55 gallons
38. How much water does it take to make a pound of wool or cotton: 101 gallons
39. How much water does it take to make 1 gallon of paint? 13 gallons
40. How much water does it take to make 1 car or truck tire or inner tube? 518 gallons
41. How much water does it take to make 1 barrel of crude oil? 1,851 gallons
42. How much water does it take to make 1 ton of cement? 1,360 gallons
43. How much water does it take to produce 1 ton of steel? 62,600 gallons

44. How much water must a dairy cow drink to produce 1 gallon of milk? 4 gallons
45. How much water is used during the growing/production of a chicken? 400 gallons
46. How much water is used during the growing/production of almonds? 12 gallons
47. How much water is used during the growing/production of a single orange? 13.8 gallons
48. How much water is used during the growing/production of a watermelon? 100 gallons
49. How much water is used during the growing/production of a loaf of bread? 150 gallons
50. How much water is used during the growing/production of a tomato? 3 gallons
51. How much water is used during the production of an egg? 120 gallons

Source: *USGS, EPA, and watersmartsystems.com*

How to Go Green: Top Water Conservation Tips

No drips

A dripping faucet can waste 20 gallons of water a day. A leaking toilet can use 90,000 gallons of water in a month. Get out the wrench and change the washers on your sinks and showers, or get new washerless faucets. Keeping your existing equipment well maintained is probably the easiest and cheapest way to start saving water.

Install new fixtures

New, low-volume or dual flush toilets, low-flow showerheads, water-efficient dishwashers and clothes washing machines can all save a great deal of water and money. Aerators on your faucets can significantly reduce water volume; water-saving showerheads can cut the volume of water used down to 1.2 gallons per minute or less. Splurging on a low-flow toilet could save another 50 to 80 gallons of water a day. Together, those changes could cut the household's daily use of water by nearly one-half – saving a considerable amount of water and money.

Cultivate good water habits

All the water that goes down the drain, clean or dirty, ends up mixing with raw sewage, getting contaminated, and meeting the same fate. Try to stay aware of this precious resource disappearing. Turn off the water while brushing your teeth or shaving; wash laundry and dishes with full loads; take shorter showers, etc.

Stay off the bottle

By many measures, bottled water is a scam. Bottled water is not as well regulated as municipal water and often is not even particularly pure. Much bottled water is just tap water anyway. Bottled water is more expensive per gallon than gasoline and incurs a huge carbon footprint from its transportation. The discarded bottles are a blight in the landscape and the landfill. If you want to carry water with you, use a refillable bottle.

Go beyond the lawn

Naturalize your lawn using locally appropriate plants that are hardy and don't need a lot of water. Water in the coolest part of the day to minimize evaporation. Drip irrigation is a better choice than using a sprinkler system.

Harvest your rainwater

Put a rain barrel on your downspouts and use this water for irrigation. Rain cisterns come in all shapes and sizes ranging from larger underground systems to smaller, freestanding ones.

Harvest your greywater

Water that has been used at least once but is still clean enough for other jobs is called greywater. Water from sinks, showers, dishwashers, and clothes washers are the most common household examples. (Toilet water is often called “blackwater” and needs a different level of treatment before it can be used.) Greywater can be recycled with practical plumbing systems (such as Aqus) or with simple practices such as emptying the fish tank in the garden instead of the sink. The bottom line? One way or another, avoid putting water down the drain when you can use it for something else.

At the car wash

Car washes are often more efficient than home washing and the water is treated rather than letting it go straight into the sewer system. Check to make sure that they clean and recycle the water.

Keep your eyes open

Report broken pipes, open hydrants, and excessive water waste. Don't be shy about pointing out leaks to your friends and family members, either. They might have turned out the dripping sound a long time ago.

Don't spike the punch

Water sources have to be protected. In many closed loop systems like those in cities in the Great Lakes, waste water is returned to the Lake that fresh water comes out of. Don't pour chemicals down drains, or flush drugs down toilets; it could come back in diluted form in your water.

Source: *Planet Green – A Discovery Company*

National Garden Clubs, Inc. Water Conservation Platform

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National Garden Clubs, Inc., believes it is imperative that we support and undertake proactive initiatives for the protection, conservation and restoration of the quality of the nation's coastal waters, wetlands, aquifers, watersheds, lakes, rivers and streams, through educational programs, conservation efforts, increased advocacy and partnerships with related government agencies, and state and national grassroots water coalitions.