

WATER FACTS & STATS

There is the same amount of water on Earth as there was when the Earth was formed. The water from your faucet could contain molecules that dinosaurs drank.

Nearly 97% of the world's water is salty or otherwise undrinkable. Another 2% is locked in ice caps and glaciers. That leaves just 1% for all of humanity's needs – all its agricultural, residential, manufacturing, community, and personal needs.

The Great Lakes contain 18% of the world's fresh water.

Water is part of a deeply interconnected system. What we pour on the ground ends up in our water, and what we spew into the sky ends up in our water.

Water regulates the Earth's temperature. It also regulates the temperature of the human body, carries nutrients and oxygen to cells, cushion joints, protects organs and tissues, and removes wastes.

The first water pipes in the United States were made from charred bored logs.

The first municipal water filtration works was opened in Paisley, Scotland, in 1832.

In 1908, chlorine was used for the first time as a primary disinfectant of drinking water in the United States.

In the United States, federal regulations of drinking water quality began in 1914.

Water is the only substance that naturally exists in three states (solid, liquid, gas) on earth.

Water expands by 9% when it freezes. Frozen water (ice) is lighter than water, which is why ice floats in water.

March 22 is World Water Day, as declared by the United Nations.

One liter of water weighs about one kilogram.

One inch of rain on an area of one kilometer by one kilometer is equivalent to 25,400 liters of water, which is equal to about 134 bathtubs of water.

Raindrops are not shaped like teardrops. Small raindrops are spherical, and larger raindrops are shaped like hamburger buns.

A person can live up to one month without food, but only about one week without water.

66% of the human body is water. 75% of the human brain is water.

A living tree is 75% water.

The average total home water use for each person in the U.S. is about 50 gallons a day.

The average cost for water supplied to a home in the U.S. is about \$2.00 for 1,000 gallons, which equals about 5 gallons for a penny.

In the United States, the average person pays 25 cents for their water each day.

It costs over \$3.5 billion dollars to operate the American water systems each year.

Globally, 69% of withdrawn water is for agriculture, 23% is for industrial purposes, and 8% is for domestic purposes.

A five minute shower uses 100 liters of water, but a five minute shower with a reduced-flow showerhead uses less than half of this.

One dishwasher cycle uses about 40 liters of water, and hand washing the dishes uses about 35 liters of water.

Leaving the tap running while you wash your hands uses about 8 liters of water.

Leaving the tap running while you brush your teeth uses about 10 liters of water.

One load of laundry uses about 225 liters of water. A front loading washing machine uses 40 to 60 percent less than a top loading washing machine.

A leaky tap or faucet that drips once per second can waste 10,000 liters of water in one year (100 gallons a day).

Typically 4-6 gallons of water are used for every toilet flush.

A leaky toilet can waste up to 260 liters of water each day.

13% of municipal piped water is lost in pipeline leaks.

On average, 50-70% of household water is used outdoors for watering lawns and gardens.

Outdoor watering uses 35 liters of water each minute.

A lawn sprinkler that sprays 19 liters per minute will, in one hour, use more water than ten flushes of the toilet, two five minute showers, two dishwasher loads, and one load of laundry.

It takes 215,000 liters of water to produce one ton of steel.

To manufacture an average domestic automobile, including tires, 147,972 liters are used.

Every day, more than 1.1 million liters of water are used to produce American newsprint.

To produce one kilogram of paper, approximately 300 liters of water are required.

Consumption of bottled water is increasing 12% each year.

Each year, over 89 billion liters of bottled water are sold.

Nitrogen and phosphorus are natural minerals, but 80% of nitrates, and 75% of phosphates that are found in lakes and rivers are added by humans.

Good sewage plants can only remove about half of the nitrogen and 30% of the phosphorus from domestic sewage. This means that between 90,718,474 and 226,796,185 kilograms of phosphates enter American waterways each year.

Eutrophication is a natural process that a lake undergoes over thousands or millions of years. During eutrophication, nutrients are added and the oxygen levels in the lake change and the ability of the lake to support organisms and ecosystems increases; during this process it is common to see an increase in the number of plants that grow in and around the lake. Due to eutrophication, Lake Erie has aged 15,000 years between

1950 and 1975, meaning that a process that would naturally take 15,000 years took only 25 years, because of the phosphorus and nitrogen that was added by humans.

American water is polluted by more than 907 million tons of sediment each year.

Farming accounts for the largest amounts of sediment pollution, but construction sites and strip mined areas (where there is bare earth) can lose up to 15,691 tons of sediment per square kilometer per year (which is 15 times higher than the normal cropland erosion rate).

One drop of oil can make up to 25 liters of water unfit for drinking.

One gram of 2, 4-D (a common household herbicide) can pollute 10 million liters of water.

One gram of PCBs can make up to 1 billion liters of water unsuitable for aquatic life.

One gram of lead can pollute 20,000 liters, and make it unfit for drinking.

One gallon of gasoline can contaminate approximately 750, 000 gallons of water.

Half of the world's wetlands have been lost since 1900.

The United States loses more than 1,821 square kilometers of wetlands each year.

The latest assessment of American surface waters found that, of those assessed, 39% of river and stream miles, 45% of lake, pond and reservoir areas, and 51% of estuary areas were impaired.

In 2000, 74% of Americans were served by wastewater treatment plants.

60% of infant mortality is linked to infectious and parasitic diseases, most of which are water related.

There are about 60,000 community water suppliers in America.

Public water suppliers must meet or exceed Environmental Protection Agency Standards. Many public water suppliers consistently supply water that is much better than the minimum standards. If a drinking water supplier violates any federal standard, the utility by law must tell the customer.

You can help prevent pollution of drinking water sources by carefully disposing of the chemical products you use in your home.