

Water Usage Facts

As the cost of water increases nationwide, water conservation takes on an ever more important role. The information included in this article was compiled from various utility providers and is intended to provide some basic facts about water consumption.

A human being can live several weeks without food, but without water the longest life expectancy is about ten days.

The United States alone uses some 450 billion gallons of water every day.

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, manufacturing, community, and personal needs.

The average household uses approximately 100 gallons of water per day per person.

Two thirds of the water used in the average home is used in the restroom.

A leaky faucet can waste up to 240 gallons of water per day, 7500 gallons per month.

Brushing your teeth while water is running wastes a gallon of water. While shaving, you can save up to six gallons of hot water by closing the drain on the sink during a typical five minute shave.

How many times a day is the toilet flushed. If U.S. citizens averaged only 4 or 5 flushes per day, it would amount to more than 5 billion gallons of water down the drain every day. That's enough to supply drinking water to the entire population of Chicago for more than 6 years.

The typical bath or average ten minute shower uses approximately 25-50 gallons of water.

The average automatic dishwasher uses approximately 9-12 gallons of water, while hand washing dishes can take up to 20 gallons.

It is estimated that 40% of the water used in a home goes down the toilet.

You can use the following information to determine areas that you can reduce your water usage.

Fixture	Average Usage
Toilet	5 to 7 gallons/flush
Shower	5 to 10 gallons/minute
Bath	12 to 24 gallons/bath
Faucet	2 to 3 gallons/minute
Leaking toilet up to	100 gallons/hour
Washing Mach.	55 gallons/load
Dishwasher	9 to 12 gallons/cycle