

Freshwater Facts and Tips

FACTS

- It takes **2,900 GALLONS** of water to produce one pair of jeans. (Water Footprint Network, 2010)
- 1 IN 7** people in the world lack access to clean water. (United Nations)
- Humans are currently using **54%** of all clean water available on Earth. (United Nations)
- By 2025, **TWO-THIRDS** of the global population will face water stress. (United Nations)
- Over their lifetimes, a child born in the “Developing World” will consume almost **50 TIMES LESS** water than a child in the “Developed World.” (Stockholm International Water Institute, 2010)
- The United States uses almost **408 BILLION GALLONS** of freshwater a day. (U.S. Forest Service)
- 70%** of consumed freshwater is used for agriculture, **22%** for industrial uses. (UNESCO, 2003)
- In developing countries, **70% OF INDUSTRIAL WASTES** are dumped untreated into waters, where they pollute the usable water supply. (UNESCO, 2003)
- Bottled water costs consumers up to **2,900 TIMES** the price of regular tap water to purchase. (Dell'Amore & Karlstrom, 2010)
- It takes **3** liters of water to produce **1** liter of bottled water. (Pacific Institute, 2008)
- It requires **1,857 GALLONS** of water to produce one pound of beef, **469 GALLONS** of water for a pound of chicken, and **43 GALLONS** for beans. (National Geographic Freshwater Portal, 2010)

- 💧 The Colorado River usually **DRIES UP** before it ever reaches its terminus in the Gulf of California. (National Geographic Maps, 2008)
- 💧 Globally, diarrhea is the leading cause of illness and death, and **88%** of diarrheal deaths are due to inadequate availability of water for hygiene and unsafe drinking water. (United Nations)
- 💧 The largest use of household water goes toward **FLUSHING THE TOILET**. (Environmental Protection Agency)
- 💧 The US and Canada have almost **1 MILLION MILES OF PIPELINES** and aqueducts. That's enough to circle the globe over forty times. (Whichita Water Utilities, 2010)

TIPS

- 💧 If your toilet is from 1992 or earlier, you probably have an inefficient model that uses between **3.5 TO 7** gallons per flush. Newer, high-efficiency toilets use less than **1.3** gallons per flush — that's at least **60%** less water per flush! (Environmental Protection Agency)
- 💧 If you can't buy a new toilet, fill a half gallon carton with water and about an inch of sand or gravel and put it in the tank. Assuming you flush at least once a day that **SAVES AT LEAST 730 GALLONS PER YEAR!** (Howard, 2007)
- 💧 Fix leaky faucets. All those wasted drops add up – sometimes to **10-25 GALLONS A DAY** – that's more than **3,000 GALLONS EACH YEAR** (Environmental Protection Agency)
- 💧 A leaky toilet can waste about **200 GALLONS OF WATER EVERY DAY**. (Environmental Protection Agency)
- 💧 Choose outdoor landscaping appropriate for your climate. **NATIVE PLANTS AND GRASSES** that thrive on the natural rainfall of your region are best. (National Geographic Freshwater Portal, 2010)
- 💧 Keep your lawn **AN INCH OR TWO LONGER TO RETAIN MOISTURE** so that it requires less frequent watering. (National Geographic Freshwater Portal, 2010)
- 💧 **WATER YOUR LAWN** or garden during the **COOL MORNING** hours, as opposed to midday, to reduce evaporation. (National Geographic Freshwater Portal, 2010)

- 💧 Install **LOW-FLOW SHOWERHEADS** and faucet aerators. Since you are saving hot water, you will also reduce your energy bill. (National Geographic Freshwater Portal, 2010)
- 💧 The average bathroom faucet flows at a rate of 2 gallons per minute. **TURNING OFF THE TAP** while brushing your teeth in the morning and at bedtime can save up to 8 gallons of water per day - That equals **2,880 GALLONS PER YEAR, PER PERSON!** (Environmental Protection Agency)
- 💧 Pre-rinsing dishes before loading the dishwasher can use up to **20 GALLONS OF WATER PER LOAD**. Energy Star qualified dishwashers and today's detergents are designed to do the cleaning so you don't have to pre-rinse, just scrape. (Environmental Protection Agency)
- 💧 Using an Energy Star qualified dishwashers instead of hand washing will save you annually **5,000 GALLONS** of water, **\$40** in utility costs, and **230 HOURS** of your time. (Energy Star)
- 💧 Reducing your shower by just **5 MINUTES CAN SAVE 10 TO 25 GALLONS**. (Environmental Protection Agency)
- 💧 Don't throw away that t-shirt! It requires **713 GALLONS** of water to produce; so hand it down or **DONATE** it to a charitable organization. (National Geographic Freshwater Portal, 2010)
- 💧 Buy less stuff. Everything takes water to make, so if we **REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE**, we shrink our water footprint. (National Geographic Freshwater Portal, 2010)
- 💧 Know the source of your drinking water—the river, lake, or aquifer that supplies your home. Once you know about it, you will care about it. (National Geographic Freshwater Portal, 2010)

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