

Water Facts

- In a 100-year period, a water molecule spends 98 years in the ocean, 20 months as ice, about 2 weeks in lakes and rivers, and less than a week in the atmosphere
- A trillion tons of water is evaporated every day by the sun!
- Most of the water found on the earth's surface is permanently frozen or salty.
- Less than 1% of the water supply on earth can be used as drinking water.
- More than 90% of the world's supply of fresh water is located in Antarctica.
- The earth is a closed system that rarely loses or gains extra matter. Essentially, this means that the same water that existed on earth millions of years ago is still present today.
- Our bodies are 60-70% water; our brains are 75% water; our lungs are nearly 90% water; and our blood is about 82% water.
- 68.7% of the fresh water on Earth is trapped in glaciers.¹
- 30% of fresh water is in the ground.¹
- 1.7% of the world's water is frozen and therefore unusable.¹
- Approximately 400 billion gallons of water are used in the United States per day.¹
- Nearly one-half of the water used by Americans is used for thermoelectric power generation.¹
- In one year, the average American residence uses over 100,000 gallons (indoors and outside).¹
- About 6,800 gallons of water is required to grow a day's food for a family of four.³
- 780 million people lack access to an improved water source.⁴
- In just one day, 200 million work hours are consumed by women collecting water for their families.⁴
- Unsafe water kills 200 children every hour.
- ⁴It takes 120 gallons of water for one egg.⁵
- A jellyfish and a cucumber are each 95% water.⁵
- 70% of the human brain is water.⁵
- 80% of all illness in the developing world is water related.⁶
- Up to 50% of water is lost through leaks in cities in the developing world.⁶
- In some countries, less than half the population has access to clean water.⁷
- \$260 billion is the estimated annual economic loss from poor water and sanitation in developing countries.⁷
- 40 billion hours are spent collecting water in Africa alone.⁷
- 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.⁸
- A person can live about a month without food, but only about a week without water.⁸
- There is about the same amount of water on Earth now as there was millions of years ago.⁹
- The United States draws more than 40 billion gallons (151 million liters) of water from the Great Lakes every day—half of which is used for electrical power production.¹²
- 85% of the world population lives in the driest half of the planet.¹³
- Agriculture accounts for ~70% of global freshwater withdrawals (up to 90% in some fast-growing economies).¹³
- 300 tons of water are required to manufacture 1 ton of steel.¹⁵
- 1 in 6 gallons of water leak from utility pipes before reaching customers in the US.¹⁵
- American use 5.7 billion gallons per day from toilet flushes.¹⁵
- It takes about 12 gallons per day to sustain a human (this figure takes into account all uses for water, like drinking, sanitation and food production).¹⁶

- By 2025, water withdrawals are predicted to increase by 50 percent in developing countries and 18 percent in developed countries.¹⁸
- By 2025 half the world's people will live in countries with high water stress.¹⁹
- The average family of four uses 180 gallons of water per day outdoors. It is estimated that over 50% is wasted from evaporation, wind, or overwatering.²⁰
- There have been 265 recorded incidences of water conflicts from 3000 BC to 2012.²¹
- If the entire world's water were fit into a 4 liter jug, the fresh water available for us would equal only about one tablespoon.²³
- Over 90% of the world's supply of fresh water is located in Antarctica.²³
- Water regulates the Earth's temperature.²³
- On average, 10 gallons per day of your water footprint (or 14% of your indoor use) is lost to leaks.²⁴
- It takes about 70 gallons of water to fill a bathtub.²⁵
- Water use has grown at more than twice the rate of population increase in the last century.²⁶ Only 0.007 percent of the planet's water is available to fuel and feed its 6.8 billion people.²⁶
- Three quarters of all Americans live within 10 miles of polluted water.²⁷
- Producing a gallon (3.79 liters) of corn ethanol consumes 170 gallons (644 liters) of water in total, from irrigation to final processing. On the other hand, the water requirement to make a gallon of regular gasoline is just five gallons (19 liters).²⁸
- 40% of freshwater withdrawals in the United States are used for agriculture.²⁹
- 65% of freshwater withdrawals in China are used for agriculture.²⁹
- Freshwater withdrawals for agriculture exceed 90% in many countries: Cambodia 94%, Pakistan 94%, Vietnam 95%, Madagascar 97%, Iran 92%, Ecuador 92%.²⁹
- If everyone in the US flushed the toilet just one less time per day, we could save a lake full of water about one mile long, one mile wide and four feet deep.³⁰
- If everyone in the US used just one less gallon of water per shower every day, we could save some 85 billion gallons of water per year.³⁰
- Over 42,000 gallons of water (enough to fill a 30×50 foot swimming pool) are needed to grow and prepare food for a typical Thanksgiving dinner for eight.³¹
- An acre of corn will give off 4,000 gallons of water per day in evaporation.³¹
- Water is the most common substance found on earth.³¹
- In Washington state alone, glaciers provide 1.8 trillion liters (470 billion gallons) of water each summer.³²
- Water makes up about 66 percent of the human body.³³
- There is more fresh water in the atmosphere than in all of the rivers on the planet combined.³⁴
- If all of the water vapor in the Earth's atmosphere fell at once, distributed evenly, it would only cover the earth with about an inch of water.³⁴
- It takes seven and a half years for the average American residence to use the same amount of water that flows over the Niagara Falls in one second (750,000 gallons).³⁴
- Of the estimated 1.4 billion hectares of crop land worldwide, around 80 percent is rainfed and accounts for about 60 percent of global agricultural output (the other 40% of output is from irrigated crop land).³⁶
- Household leaks can waste more than 1 trillion gallons annually nationwide. That's equal to the annual household water use of more than 11 million homes.³⁷
- Ten percent of homes have leaks that waste 90 gallons or more per day.³⁷
- A leaky faucet that drips at the rate of one drip per second can waste more than 3,000 gallons per year.³⁷
- There is an estimated 326 million trillion gallons of water on earth.³⁹

- Two-thirds of the world's population is projected to face water scarcity by 2025, according to the United Nations.⁴²
- 1 pound of beef requires 1,799 gallons of water.⁴³
- 1 gallon of wine requires 1,008 gallons of water.⁴³
- A 0.3 pound burger requires 660 gallons of water.⁴³
- 1 slice of bread requires 11 gallons of water.⁴³
- 1 apple requires 18 gallons of water.⁴³
- 1 pound of chocolate requires 3,170 gallons of water.⁴³ 500 sheets of paper requires 1,321 gallons of water.⁴³
- Ground water occurs almost everywhere beneath the land surface. The widespread occurrence of potable ground water is the reason that it is used as a source of water supply by about one-half the population of the United States.⁴⁴
- Hydrologists estimate, according to the National Geographic Society, U.S. groundwater reserves to be at least 33,000 trillion gallons — equal to the amount discharged into the Gulf of Mexico by the Mississippi River in the past 200 years.⁴⁵
- At any given moment, groundwater is 20 to 30 times greater than the amount in all the lakes, streams, and rivers of the United States.⁴⁵
- About 27 trillion gallons of groundwater are withdrawn for use in the U.S. each year.⁴⁶
- 844 million people lack basic drinking water access, more than 1 of every 10 people on the planet.
- Women and girls spend an estimated 200 million hours hauling water every day.
- The average woman in rural Africa walks 6 kilometers every day to haul 40 pounds of water.
- Every day, more than 800 children under age 5 die from diarrhea attributed to poor water and sanitation.
- By 2050, at least 1 in 4 people will likely live in a country affected by chronic or recurring fresh-water shortages.
- 2.3 billion people live without access to basic sanitation.
- 892 million people practice open defecation.
- One of the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals aims to provide universal access to clean water and sanitation by 2030.
- 90% of all natural disasters are water-related.
- 800 million people around the world are without basic water access. That's more than twice the population of the United States. [2]
- More people die from unsafe water than from all forms of violence, including war. [3]
- 2.3 billion people, or nearly 1 in 3, lack access to a toilet. [4]
- Diarrheal diseases, caused primarily by unsafe water and poor sanitation, kill more children under 5 years old than malaria, AIDS, and measles combined. [5]
- Diarrheal disease kills one child every 60 seconds. [6]
- Unsafe water and poor sanitation cause repeated bouts of diarrheal disease, which causes malnutrition, weakens the immune system, and makes other illnesses more likely. This makes diarrheal diseases one of the most deadly illnesses in developing countries. [7]
- In sub-Saharan Africa, women and girls spend an estimated 40 billions hours a year collecting water. [8]
- The latest data suggest that as many as 443 million school days are lost each year due to water-related diseases. [9]

- Lost time gathering water significantly reduces productive farming time for women in parts of the developing world. With safe water nearby, it's estimated that women could feed 150 million of the world's hungry. [10]
- For every \$1 invested in safe water and sanitation, a yield of \$5 to \$28 USD is returned in increased economic activity and reduced health care costs. [11]

Facts gathered from:

<https://www.aquamaster.ca/blog/item/15-amazing-facts-about-water>

<https://www.seametrics.com/blog/water-facts/>

<https://www.worldvision.org/clean-water-news-stories/global-water-crisis-facts>

<https://lifewater.org/blog/top-10-global-water-crisis-facts-heres-what-you-need-to-know/>