



SURPRISING FACTS ABOUT WATER USAGE

Taken from Environment Canada's website:

Keeping in mind that water use in the 20th century is increasing about twice as fast as the human population is increasing, consider these facts:

- It takes 48.3 gallons (about 183 litres) of water to produce one, eight-ounce glass of milk when you add together the amounts of water needed to provide food and water for the cows, to keep the dairy barns clean, and to process the milk.
- It takes about 45% more water to make a slice of white bread (10.6 gallons/40 litres) than a slice of brown bread (7.3 gallons/28 litres) because more flour is used and because that flour requires more processing to remove the brown colour.
- The average human needs approximately 5.7 litres of water per day for drinking and cooking. That's approximately the same amount of water used when a person in the industrialized world leaves a tap running for 20 to 40 seconds.
- It takes between 25 and 45 litres of water per day to cover a person's basic health and sanitation needs. It takes 70 litres of water to refine one litre of gasoline.
- The average cost of 58 litres of water in developing nations equals 15 minutes of pay. The average cost of 850 litres of water in North America equals about six minutes of pay.
- One woman in a developing nation can carry between 15 and 22 litres of water home from a single trip to the village well – if she is lucky enough to live in a village with a well. The standard North American toilet uses approximately 18 litres of water each time it is flushed.
- Based on the three rules of water conservation – reduce, repair and retrofit – a typical household can reduce water consumption by 40 % or more, with little or no effect on lifestyle.
- Up to 30 percent of the total water entering supply-line systems is lost to leaking pipes.
- In 2001, average daily freshwater domestic use was 35% for bathing, 25% for laundry and cleaning, 30% for toilet flushing, and 10% for cooking and drinking.
- In 1996, 64% of water withdrawal in Canada went to thermal power generation, 14% went to manufacturing, 12% was used by municipalities, 9% went to agriculture and 1% was used by mining operations.
- In 1999, water use was 70% higher when consumers faced flat rates rather than volume-based rates. And yet, only about 56% of Canada's urban population was metered in 1999.
- In 1999, about 26% of Canadian municipalities with water distribution systems reported problems with water availability within the previous five years.