EPA WaterSense

The Energy in Water

We Use a Lot of Water Every Day

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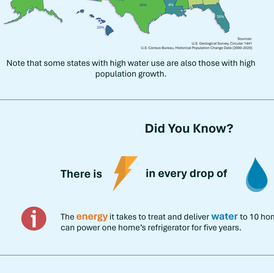
Domestic Water Use in Gallons per Day per Person and Percent Population Growth from 2000 to 2020



Note that some states with high water use are also those with high population growth.

In 2015, we **used** an average of

82

gallons **per person** per day for domestic use.

Did You Know?

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There is ⚡ in every drop of 💧 you use.

The **energy** it takes to treat and deliver **water** to 10 homes per year can power one home's refrigerator for five years.

Units to Know

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kWh

Kilowatt Hour

Measures the amount of energy consumption, in kilowatts, for one hour.

GPHD

Gallons per Household per Day

Measures the amount of water used by a household on a daily basis. A related term, GPCD, measures use on a per-person basis.

AF

Acre-Foot

The volume of water that will cover an acre of land one foot deep, equal to 325,851 gallons.

Every Drop of Water We Use Takes Energy to Move, Treat, or Heat

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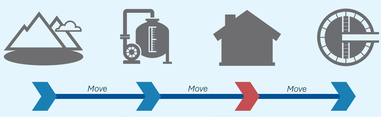

Move → Move → Move

Extract

Water is pumped from surface water or groundwater aquifers.

Treat

674 kWh/Acre-foot

Public water systems treat water to make it safe to drink.

Heat

54,720 kWh/Acre-foot

Homes use energy to heat water.

Treat Again

821 kWh/Acre-foot

Wastewater treatment plants treat water to remove pollutants.

Every year, **39.2 billion kWh** of energy is used to treat and distribute drinking water and **30.2 billion kWh** is used to treat wastewater across the United States.

We Can Use Less Water and Energy With WaterSense Labeled and ENERGY STAR Certified Products

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	COLD		&	HOT		
Efficient	16.7 gphd	117 gphd	27.4 gphd	23.6 gphd	0.8 gphd	11.0 gphd
	Toilets	Irrigation System	Faucets	Showerheads	Dishwasher	Clothes Washer
Typical	33.9 gphd	138 gphd	29.0 gphd	29.5 gphd	1.6 gphd	24.3 gphd

Figures assume an average household size of 2.61 occupants

We Can Save Water and Energy When We Use Smarter Practices

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In the Bathroom

Turning off the tap while brushing your teeth can save four gallons of water per day and, while shaving, can save five gallons of water per shave. Assuming you brush your teeth twice daily and shave five times per week, you could save nearly **2,800 gallons per year**.

In the Kitchen

Scraping dirty dishes rather than pre-rinsing them before placing them in the dishwasher could save five gallons of water per dishwasher load. This could save the average family more than **600 gallons of water per year**, which is equivalent to washing **100 dishwasher loads** of dishes.

Doing Laundry

Eliminating one load of laundry per week by washing only full loads could save the average family more than **1,600 gallons of water per year**, which is enough to take **100 showers**.

Being Smart Saves Water, Energy, and Money!

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The average family can save **38,000 gallons of water** per year by retrofitting with WaterSense labeled fixtures (toilets, faucets, showerheads) and ENERGY STAR certified appliances (clothes washers, dishwashers). This amount of water can supply an average family for more than five months.

The average family spends nearly **$1,300 per year on water**, but can save nearly $500 annually from retrofitting with WaterSense labeled fixtures and ENERGY STAR certified appliances.

WaterSense Labeled Homes Offer More Savings

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Learn more about WaterSense labeled homes!

WaterSense labeled homes use at least 30 percent less water than typical new construction. Reduced indoor water use means less water needs to be heated, which contributes to energy savings, too. The average family in a WaterSense labeled home can save more than 50,000 gallons of water, 800 kWh of electricity, and $700 in utility costs per year.

we build WaterSense labeled EPA homes

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Visit

epa.gov/watersense

to energize yourself with savings!

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