



water Facts

Health

Water is needed to carry electrical signals to the brain from sensory organs, such as the eyes and ears, for conversion into memory and learning. [Quality Lifestyle]

Water aids weight loss. An insufficient water intake can reduce the body's ability to burn calories by 2-3%, causing weight gain. [Bottomline Health]

Water may lessen the pain of arthritis. When the body doesn't have enough water, what's available is routed to bone marrow, decreasing the amount for lubricating joints and cartilage. [Quality Lifestyle]

The average adult human can live for more than a month without food but only about a week without water. [American Water Works Assoc.]

The average human brain is comprised of 75-percent water. The average human body is comprised of 66-percent water. [Mayo Clinic]

Water is nature's thermometer, helping to regulate the earth's temperature. If frozen water did not float, all of the water contained in all of the earth's rivers, lakes and oceans would be frozen solid, making the earth uninhabitable. [US EPA]

Earth

The hydrologic cycle of water is a continuous process of water circulation from the clouds to the ground, to the ocean, and back to the clouds. Water evaporates from the earth's surface, forms clouds and falls to the earth again as rain or snow. It then flows into lakes and rivers, and eventually, oceans. Some of what falls to the ground is absorbed and becomes groundwater.



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DWSD

All of the water treated by the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department (DWSD) and pumped to its 4 million customers is surface water from lakes and rivers. Drinking water produced by DWSD meets or exceeds all regulatory standards.

There are more than 3,000 miles of water distribution and transmission mains beneath the City of Detroit, enough to stretch from New York City to Los Angeles.

There are roughly one million miles of water pipelines and aqueducts in the US and Canada, enough to circle the earth 40-50 times! [US EPA]

In an average year, DWSD treats and pumps 228,490,000,000 (nearly 228.5 billion!) gallons of water. That works out to 1,905,606,600,000 (1.9 trillion!) pounds based on the current average of 626 million gallons per day.

The Great Lakes, from which DWSD draws its water for treatment, holds the largest concentration of fresh water in the world.



General

For the average cost of one six-pack of soda, you can fill about 15,000 eight-ounce glasses with treated water from an average water utility in the United States. [US EPA] There are about 1.4 billion cubic kilometers (326 million cubic miles) of water on earth. [Yahoo Geocities]

Water freezes at 32°F (0°C) and boils at 212°F (100°C). Liquid water is at its greatest density at 39°F and expands when frozen.

It takes 219 million gallons of water to cover an area of one-square-mile to a depth of one foot. [US EPA]

Water expands by nearly one-tenth of its volume when frozen. One cubic foot of water becomes 1.09 cubic feet of ice. [American Water Works Assoc.]

One gallon of water weighs 8.34 pounds; one cubic foot contains 7.84 gallons of water and weighs 65.4 pounds. [US EPA]

Once evaporated, a water molecule spends 10 days in the air. [US EPA]

40% of the earth's atmospheric moisture falls each day as precipitation, and 40 trillion gallons of water a day are carried in the atmosphere across the United States. [US EPA]

Americans drink more than 1 billion glasses of tap water per day. Families turn on the faucet an average of 70 times in one day. [Florida Water Environment Assoc.]

Only 3% of the earth's total water supply comes from freshwater that's easily converted into drinking water. Two-thirds is locked away in polar ice caps. [US EPA]

40% of the water used each day by the average person is flushed down the toilet. [Fiji Natural Artesian Water]

A faucet that drips at the rate of one drop per second will waste 2,700 gallons in 12 months. [American Water and Energy Savers, Inc.]

