

# Half Full

**Before the dawn** of civilization, there were 326 million trillion gallons of water on Earth. Today, after millennia of population growth, industry, and agriculture, there are still 326 million trillion gallons. Unlike other natural resources, we cannot run out of water.

But it doesn't mean that we always will have enough of it when and where we need it or that we can't make it too dirty to drink. We have altered the water cycle—from ocean to cloud to ground and back to ocean—by putting 6 billion people in the middle of it. Now, the Earth isn't generating clean, drinkable water as we've come to expect.

But if we start paying attention and change our behavior, there is no need to worry about water. We can use less, limit our effect on the water cycle, and clean and protect our rivers and oceans. We have plenty, as long as we drink responsibly.

## Personal Water Use Survey

DOMESTIC WATER USE	TIME SPENT USING WATER	ESTIMATED GALLONS OF WATER USED	WATER CONSERVING METHOD
Keeping Clean			
Washing hands and face		Tap running 2-5 Gallons per minute	Half-full bowl ½ gallon
Showering		Water running 5 gallons per minute	Five minutes with low-flow head 12 gallons total
Taking a bath		Full tub 30-40 gallons total	Low level tub 15 gallons
Taking a sponge bath		5 gallons per minute	
Brushing teeth		Tap running 5 gallons per minute	Wet brush, rinse ½ gallon
Preparing food			
Washing food		Water running 5 gallons per minute	Rinsing only About 1 gallon
Cooking		Approximate your use	Approximate your use
Drinking			
Tap water		Running water ¼ gallon	Pitcher in fridge 1/16 gallon
Tea, coffee, cocoa		Running water ¼ gallon	Pitcher in fridge 1/16 gallon
Flushing the toilet		Regular flow 7 gallons	Low flow 2 – 4.5 gallons
Washing clothes by hand		20-30 gallons	
Washing clothes by machine			
Low setting		20 gallons	
High setting		30 gallons	
Washing dishes			
By hand		Running water 30 gallons	Sponge wash and dishpan rinse 5 gallons
In the dishwasher		Full cycle 15 gallons	Short cycle 7 gallons
Cleaning the house		8 gallons	
Washing the car		Water running 10 gallons per minute	Bucket, sponge, choke nozzle 5 gallons total
Watering the lawn		In middle of day 10 gallons per minute, 30 minutes	In morning hours 10 gallons per minute, 10 minutes
Watering plants		5-10 gallons	
Other uses		You estimate	