



Water – the most Precious Drop

How Much do we use? What can we Save?

Questions for Home and School

How Much Water is There?

There's a whole lot of water on Earth!

Something like (roughly)
1,260,000,000,000,000,000 litres can
be found on our planet.

This water is in a **constant cycle** -- it
evaporates from the ocean, travels
through the air, rains down on the land
and then flows back to the ocean.

The oceans are huge. About 70 percent of
the planet is covered in ocean.

98% of the water on the planet is in the
oceans, and therefore is unusable for
drinking because of the salt. About 2
percent of the planet's water is fresh, but
1.6 percent of the planet's water is locked
up in the polar ice caps and glaciers.

Another 0.36 percent is found
underground in aquifers and wells.

Only about 0.036 percent of the planet's
total water supply is found in lakes and
rivers. That's still thousands of trillions of
litres, but it's a very small amount
compared to all the water available.

The drought conditions that are
experienced at certain times in many
places around the world means that we
have to be extra careful with the water we
use.

Water really is a precious drop.



How Much Water Do We Use?

In the Western World we all use about 135
litres of water a day.

Washing Up in the Sink uses 15 litres of
water

Washing the dishes in a dishwasher uses 40
litres of water

Washing your hands and face uses 4 litres of
water

Filling a paddling pool uses 400 litre of water

A full watering can holds 4 litres of water

A sprinkling system uses 540 litres per hour.

Cleaning your teeth with running water uses
6 litres of water.

Filling a kettle uses 2.5 litres.

Washing the car with a bucket uses 10 litres
of water per bucket.

A dripping tap can waste 12 litres of water a
day.

A shower uses 30 litres of water every 5
minutes.

One bath uses 90 litres of water.

**Each year the average household uses
more than three swimming pools worth
of water in the laundry, kitchen and
bathroom:**

- **1 swimming pool is used for the toilet**
- **1 swimming pool is used in the bathroom**
- **$\frac{3}{4}$ swimming pool is used in the laundry**
- **$\frac{1}{2}$ swimming pool is used in the kitchen**

YOU CAN make a difference !!

Sydneysiders have saved nearly **8 billion litres**
of water since mandatory water restrictions were
imposed a month ago. But anyone considering
sneaking out the hose this weekend had better
think again as water officers have the power to
issue \$220 fines. **AAP November 2003**

Meet the Neighbours....

Spend the Day with the Wally Water Wise Family

The Wally Water Wise Family thinks that showering is SENSATIONAL!!

1. Wally has a shower every morning for 10 minutes.
2. Wendy showers after Wally but only for 5 minutes
3. Wilbur Junior only showers after *The Simpsons* which is on TV 4 days a week. He showers for 15 minutes as he always loses the soap.
4. Winona Junior showers after taking the dog for a walk which she does 6 days a week. She doesn't use soap so she is in and out in 1 minute.
5. WagDog is given a hose down after he rolls in the mud which he does 3 times a week. The hose uses 3 litres of water a minute. WagDog loves the hose and stays under it for 3 minutes

If a shower uses 30 litres of water every 5 minutes – how much water does the WWW Family use a week?

Dad	
Mum	
Boy	
Girl	
Pet	
TOTAL	

Cleaning your teeth with the tap OFF uses 1 litre of water. The WWW Family all brush their teeth twice a day and turn the tap off. WagDog just eats bones. How much water do they SAVE in comparison to their W cubed neighbours?



Spend the Day with the Willy Waste Water family

The Willy Water Waster Family thinks that taking a BATH is the BEST!

1. Willy has a bath every day.
2. Wanita has a bath 6 nights a week.
3. Weena has one after she watches *The Adventures of Nemo* which she loves and sees 2 times a week.
4. Walter has a bath after watching his favourite Rugby team play, *Wet Weather United*, every Saturday.
5. Wanda the fish has her bowl of water changed every day. A fishbowl of water contains 4 litres.

If one bath uses 90 litres of water, how much water does the W cubed Family use a week?

Dad	
Mum	
Boy	
Girl	
Pet	
TOTAL	

Cleaning your teeth with the tap running uses 6 litres of water. The W cubed Family clean their teeth twice a day. How much water do they use? Wanda just swills the water in the Goldfish bowl.

