



**Environmental Sustainability Committee** <http://www.esc.mtu.edu/>

### **Why use water wisely?**

With only 1% of the Earth's water is available for drinking, we need to find ways to save water and keep from polluting the water we have. Water on the Earth now is the same water that was here when dinosaurs roamed the land. Using water wisely not only saves you money for consuming a smaller quantity of water, it can also reduce your electricity bill due to heating of water and running of appliances.

About two-thirds of the human body is water. The human brain is about 75% water. Water has zero calories and zero sugar, but a good drink of water can help reduce hunger. Water also helps the body metabolize stored fats, maintain proper muscle tone, and rid the body of wastes. You can survive about a month without food, but only 5 to 7 days without water.

### **And did you know....**

- More than 79,000 tons of chlorine are used per year in the U.S. and Canada to treat water.
- Public water suppliers process 38 billion gallons of water per day for domestic and public use.
- Typically, households consume at least half of their water by lawn sprinkling.
- Inside, toilets use the most water with an average of 27 gallons per person per day (40% of indoor water use).
- Laundry averages 17 gallons per person per day and showers 14 gallons (30% of indoor water use).
- Laundry and dishwashing is about 15% of indoor water use.
- Leaks claim about 5% of indoor water use on average.
- *If everyone in the U.S. flushed the toilet just one less time per day, we could save a lakeful of water about a mile long, a mile wide, and four feet deep every day.*
- Most showers pour out between 5 to 10 gallons per minute. The average five-minute shower takes between 15 and 25 gallons of water.
- *Each person uses about 100 gallons of water a day at home.*
- You can refill an 8 oz. glass of water approximately 15,000 times for the same cost as a six-pack of pop. If drinking water and soda pop were equally costly, your water bill would skyrocket more than 10,000%.
- An automatic dishwasher uses approximately 9 to 12 gallons of water while hand washing dishes can use up to 20 gallons.
- Paint, used motor oil, or chemicals disposed of in the gutter OR on the ground can wash down into streams and lakes – places we use for recreation and drinking water. Storm runoff can also pick up these chemicals and carry them to urban streams where our kids play and animals drink.
- We drink very little of our drinking water. Generally speaking, less than 1% of the treated water produced by water utilities is actually consumed. The rest goes on lawns, in washing machines, and down toilets and drains.
- A dairy cow must drink 4 gallons of water to produce one gallon of milk.
- 300 million gallons of water are needed to produce a single day's supply of U.S. newsprint.

Check out [www.waterwiser.org](http://www.waterwiser.org)

