

Individual Water Use

Table 1 Direct water use

Activity	Water use	Activity	Water use
Brushing teeth	8 L/min	Leaking faucet	10 L/day
Washing hands	8 L/min	Watering lawn	35 L/min
Shaving	8 L/min	Washing machine	110-170 L
Showering	17.5 L/min	House Cleaning	25 L
Tub bathing	105 L	Automatic dishwasher	25 L
Toilet flushing	13 L	Washing dishes	30
Getting a drink	1 L	Washing a car	38 L/min
		Cooking a meal	22

Table 2 Indirect water use – Agricultural

Item	Water use (L)
1 egg	140
1 orange	350
1 ear of corn	266
1 loaf of bread	147
1 kg flour	578
1 kg sugar	962
1 kg rice	3,853
1 kg beef	19,274

Table 3 Indirect water use – Industrial

Item or activity	Water use
Mining/manufacturing	640/person/day
Cooling electric plants	2,450/person/day
1 L gasoline	50
1 kg steel	270
1 newspaper	980
1 Christmas tree	18,053
1 kg aluminum	7,707
1 car	331,888
1 barrel crude oil refined	7,000
1 hamburger	4,925

Table 4 Water use by sector in Canada

Sector	Water use (%)	
Power generation	63	
Industry	17	
Municipal	11	
	Showering/bathing	35
	Toilet flushing	30
	Laundry	20
	Cooking/drinking	10
	Cleaning	5
Agriculture	9	

Questions

1. Estimate, off the top of your head, your individual, direct daily water use in liters.
2. Use the data in Table 1, calculate your actual direct individual daily water use.
3. Describe your reaction when you compare your calculated water use with your estimated water use.
4. Assume every student in the school has water use similar to yours. Calculate the total amount of water used each day by every student in the school.
5. For a few of the Indirect uses of water, provide a reason why so much water is used for each.

6. Make a list of both the Direct and Indirect ways in which you use water and suggest some ways you could reduce your use of both.
7. Provide an argument for and against conserving water at home.
8. Identify some ways in which water is wasted in the home.
9. If you were hired as a consultant to help a homeowner reduce his or her water use, describe the strategies you would suggest.
10. If you were hired by the Canadian government to develop a water use reduction strategy, describe the main focus of the plan you would suggest.