

# Water Works

continued

## Would You Drink It?

Many of the hazardous products that we use around the house, in the garage, and in our yards can damage our environment if they are used or disposed of improperly. These products should never be poured down the drain, or flushed down the toilet. When these hazardous products enter our water treatment system, they kill bacteria that help break down our sewage, so that our treatment facilities don't work as well as they should. Many of these chemicals are resistant to treatment, so they do not get filtered out of the water either. When disposed of in landfills, they seep into groundwater, rivers and streams. Eventually they end up in the water, harming aquatic and terrestrial plants and animals, contaminating their habitats and polluting our drinking supply.

When purchasing household products, consider environmentally-friendly alternatives. Take leftover paints, oils and solvents to local recycling or disposal facilities instead of pouring them into the storm drains. These drain directly into rivers and streams without treatment. Keep your garden healthy with mulches or compost instead of chemicals.

### Common Household Hazardous Waste Products

- antifreeze
- batteries
- brake fluid
- chemical strippers
- lighter fluid
- nail polish remover
- toilet cleaners
- chlorine bleach
- contact cement
- drain cleaners
- fire extinguishers
- lye
- old propane tanks
- oven cleaners
- flea collars and sprays
- herbicides
- insecticides
- kerosene
- mothballs
- paints
- pesticides
- pool chemicals
- spot removers
- used motor oil
- prescription dru
- stains and finis
- solvents



Miller Environmental Corporation hosts a **Hazardous Household Waste Day** the first Saturday of each month from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm. Call 925-9600 for more information.

### Household Alternatives

#### Washing Soda:

Dissolve 3ml in hot water for drain cleaner, or mix 120ml with 120ml ammonia for all purpose cleaner.

#### Baking Soda:

Good for scouring appliances, vinyl, stainless steel sinks, toilets, and drains as well as deodorizing refrigerators and carpet. Sprinkle on a hot oven and wipe down when cool to clean your oven.

#### Vinegar:

Mix half and half with water for glass cleaner, or use undiluted to remove mildew.

#### Pure Soap:

A good all purpose cleaner. Or mix 30ml of flakes with 1 litre of water for indoor plant, shrub and tree insecticide.

#### Borax:

A natural mould inhibitor that can be used to deodorize and clean floors, wall and tiles.

#### Natural Oils:

1tsp lemon oil with 1/2 litre mineral oil or olive oil can be used to polish furniture and hardwood floors.

### For More Information Contact:

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1961 McCreary Road  
Winnipeg, MB  
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(204)989-8357

#### email:

fw\_progs@fortwhyte.org



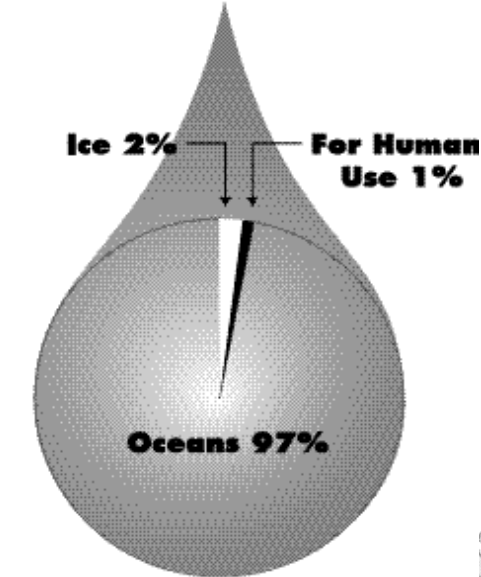
## Water Works

Lani Innes

**We need water!** We use it every day to drink and cook, to clean and flush our wastes, to swim and to have fun. We need it to grow our food and manufacture products. Using water is such an ordinary activity, we often don't realize how much we actually use!

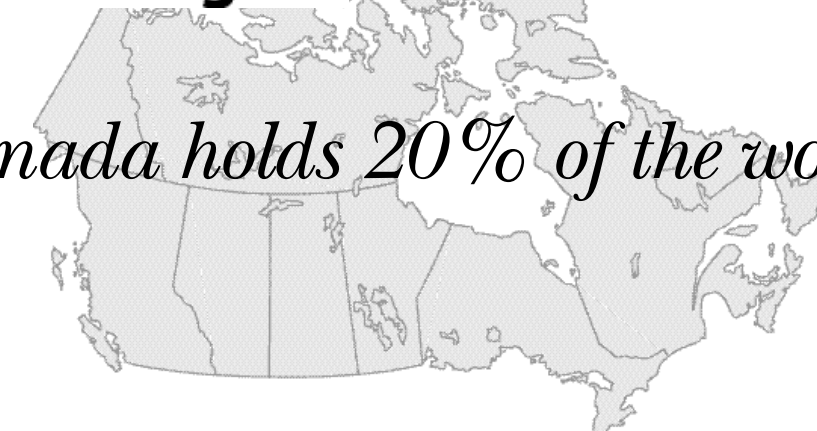
In Winnipeg, the average household consumes approximately 400 litres of water per day. Of that, 30% is flushed down the toilet! Another 30% is used for showers and baths. Washing clothes accounts for approximately 20% of the water used; running taps uses 10%; with another 10% used for food preparation, cleaning and drinking. And that's only indoors! During the summer, household water use can double!

### How Much Fresh Water Anyway?



### The World's Water Budget

Canada holds 20% of the world's fresh water.



The hydrological cycle moves enormous quantities of water about the globe. Some of this movement is rapid; the average time a drop of water stays in a river is about 16 days and in the atmosphere is about 8 days. But this time can run into centuries for a glacier and tens of thousands of years for water moving sluggishly through a deep aquifer. Much of the world's water has little potential for human use, as approximately 97% of all water on earth is salt water. Most of the remaining 2% of fresh water lies frozen in Antarctica and Greenland. Less than 1% of water is stored in rivers and lakes, soil and underground aquifers, where it is available for human use.

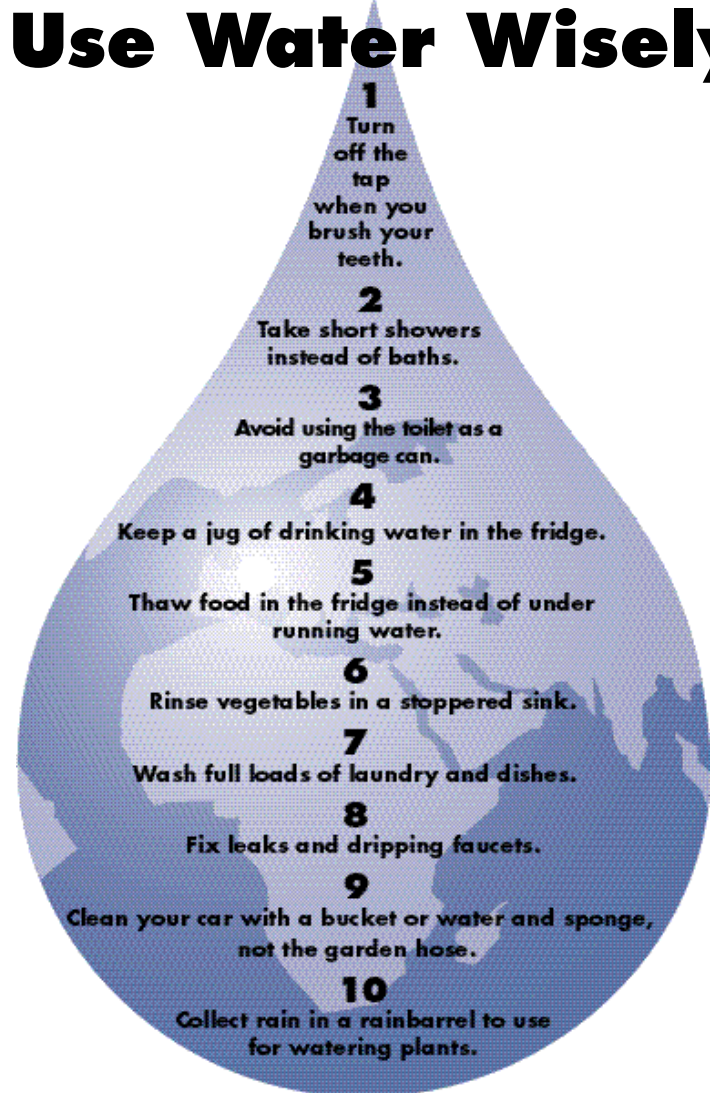
## Did You Know?

Stressors on our freshwater supply include:

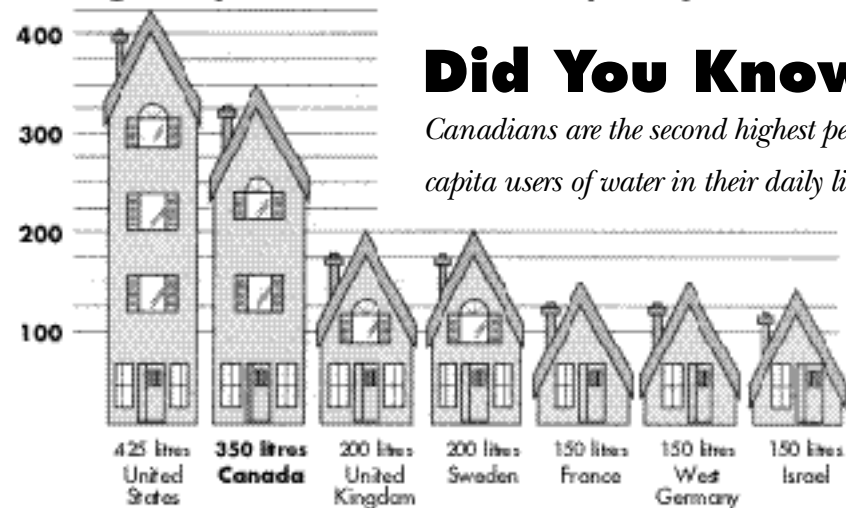
- high per capita use
- population growth
- pollution
- climate change.



## 10 Ways to Use Water Wisely



Average daily household water use (per capita).



### Did You Know?

Canadians are the second highest per capita users of water in their daily lives.

### Keeping the Heat In

Heating water is the second largest energy use in most homes. Efficient water heating systems produce hot water quickly and lower energy bills. Heat escaping from the walls of water tanks and pipes can increase a hot water heating bill as much as \$600.00! By setting your thermostat back and properly insulating your hot water tank and pipes, you could see a 25% saving on your home water heating costs.

### Take Your Temperature

Set your water heater to the correct temperature to reduce heat loss and prolong its life.

The temperature gauge on your water heater can be misleading. Get an accurate reading with this simple test.

1. Run hot water from the kitchen faucet for one minute.
2. Measure the water temperature with a reliable candy or meat thermometer.
3. Repeat the test with the bathroom faucet.

To avoid a misleading measurement, make sure a major use of hot water has not occurred in the last three hours.

*Optimal temperature for a natural gas water heater: 50°C to 55°C*

*Optimal temperature for an electric water heater: 55°C to 60°C*

## From Old to New

Replacing, or *retrofitting*, your home hardware with efficient water-saving devices can substantially decrease your water use and your water bill. When installed properly, retrofit devices work as well and feel the same as a standard shower.

Conventional Device	Retrofit Device	You Save
<b>Toilet</b> Uses approximately 20L/flush	Toilet Dam Toilet Tank Bags Early Closure Flapper Ultra-low Flush Toilet	6L/flush 3L/flush 8L/flush 13L/flush
<b>Showerheads</b> Use approximately 18L/minute	Low Flow Showerheads	8.5L/minute
<b>Bathroom Faucets</b> Use approximately 15L/minute	Faucet Aerator	9L/minute
<b>Kitchen Faucets</b> Use approximately 15L/minute	Faucet Aerator	5.5L/minute

### Kids Can Help Too!

Have your children make their own toilet displacement device. Place a full 1 litre pop bottle, or a sealed zip lock bag filled with marbles or stones, in your toilet tank away from the moving parts.

## Growing Green!

*Don't let your lawn and garden be the biggest drain on water resources this summer. Maintain a lush landscape while conserving water with these easy tips:*

- Water in the early morning or late afternoon to reduce evaporation in the hot summer sun.
- Use a soaker hose or apply water slowly to the base of plants rather than applying water to the leaves.
- Cut your grass to a height of five to eight centimeters and leave the clippings on the ground so that roots remain shaded and moist.
- Use mulches around plants and trees and compost in your garden to keep your soil fertile and moist.



continued

## Fixing Leaks



Keeping faucets in good repair is key to home water conservation -and it's easy! Household leaks can account for as much as 14% of all indoor water use.

*The most common source of leaks is the toilet. Toilets that run after flushing can waste as much as 200,000 litres per year – that's enough to fill 1,052 bathtubs!*

### What to Do:

Add a couple of drops of food colouring to your toilet tank. If the food colouring has seeped into the bowl after 15 minutes, the flapper valve or overflow tube is leaking. New flapper valves can be purchased at a local hardware store. You can also lower the water level in your tank 5 inches below the overflow tube to stop the leak.

*Faucets leaking at one drop per second waste 10,000 litres of water per year – that's enough to use your dishwasher 156 times!*

### What to Do:

Replace the rubber O-ring or washer inside the valve. To detect less obvious leaks, read your water meter. Start by turning off all faucets and water-using appliances and make sure no one uses water during the testing period. Take a reading on your water meter, wait for about 30 minutes, then take a second reading. If the dial has moved, you have a leak.