

Life Depends on Water Publication from Illinois EPA

Don't take **water** for granted. You can't **live** without it. To begin with, your body is about two-thirds water. You need to take in about a quart of water a day to replace the water you lose naturally. You need water for cleaning and gardening. Water is also needed to produce your **food**. Farmers depend on water to grow crops and raise animals. Believe it or not, it takes about 15 gallons of water to grow wheat for one loaf of bread, about 120 gallons to care for a chicken to lay one egg and about 4,000 gallons to produce a pound of beef. Power plants use water for cooling. And factories use water to make the kinds of things you and your **family** use - things like clothing, paper, gasoline and steel for cars.



Ships carry goods and people around the world on water. People go swimming, boating and fishing in water. Many **animals** and **plants** live in water.

Most of the **earth's** water is salt water in oceans. Less than 1 percent of all

the water on the earth is usable fresh water - in lakes, rivers and underground aquifers.

The supply of fresh water is limited, and life is not possible without it. There is a constant amount of water on the earth. What does change is the form which water exists - liquid, solid or gas. That means there is the same amount of water today as there was 100 years ago, or will be in 100 years. That is why it is important to keep water clean and usable.

What is Water? Publication from Illinois EPA

Water is the only substance that occurs **naturally** on earth in three forms at the same time: as a **solid**, as a **liquid** and as a **gas**. Depending on the temperature and pressure, water may appear as steam, ice, snow, clouds and water vapor.

Chemically, water is known as H₂O. It freezes at 32°F (0°C) and boils at 212°F (100°C)



How Much Water Does it Take? Publication from Illinois EPA

It takes:

1. 5 to 7 **gallons** to flush a toilet
2. 2 gallons to brush your teeth
3. 2 gallons to wash your hands
4. 5 to 10 gallons for every minute you water your lawn or garden
5. 36 gallons to take a bath
6. 25 to 50 gallons to take a shower
7. 20 gallons to wash dishes by hand
8. 10 gallons to use an automatic dishwasher



Just to list a few of the items that have been studied.

Some facts about Groundwater? Publication from Illinois EPA

1. Groundwater is **underground**. You cannot see it, but it is still very important
2. About half of all the people in the United States get their **drinking** water from groundwater sources.
3. Experts estimate that 90 percent of rural Illinois residents depend on groundwater drawn from **wells** as their primary water source.
4. In the United States most groundwater is used for agricultural purposes like **irrigation**. Only 14 percent of the United States' groundwater is used for drinking.
5. Even though it is underground, groundwater is not protected from **pollution**.

Dangerous chemicals that are on the surface of the land or buried underground can seep into groundwater and pollute it. **Contamination** can also come from mines, highway salts, fertilizers, abandoned oil wells, gasoline spills and dozens of other **sources**.



Nuts About Nature

Compliments of the
Fayette County SWCD

WORD FIND

On the front page of this newsletter there are twenty, green bold words. Search for those words in our Conservation Word Find at the right.



X	J	T	A	E	W	I	U	I	E	G	R	C	N	T	S	X	P
Y	I	A	J	R	E	P	O	J	A	W	O	O	S	O	N	W	M
Y	L	N	A	A	L	G	C	L	M	N	I	C	L	U	Y	H	H
N	C	I	X	G	L	M	L	X	T	T	N	I	J	O	L	X	J
V	P	M	M	P	S	O	T	A	U	I	D	E	Y	C	L	P	R
S	W	A	B	A	N	J	M	L	T	W	Z	B	T	A	A	P	M
V	X	L	T	S	F	I	L	R	E	C	R	T	X	J	R	U	T
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S	E	C	R	U	O	S	R	R	O	S	A	N	W	N	P	N	L
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D	A	N	G	E	R	O	U	S	I	H	U	B	I	Z	N	O	Y

Conservation

Identify the ten pictures below by entering the name of each under the picture. Most of the pictures are part of the word search from above.



Groundwater Maze

Can you find the path the groundwater flows in and out of the opening?

