

My household uses about: 7,918 gallons of water/day

I personally use about: 1,584 gallons of water/day

Water is a staple in everyday life and unfortunately although the earth is made up of 71% of water, only a small percentage is drinkable and usable. Water has many purposes which include human survival, vegetation, and the survival of all living things in general. When there is water, there is life. This is why scientists try to find planets that contain water to look for signs of life which could be used to understand how life was formed here on earth. Water takes up 60% of humans and what we drink, eat and do in our everyday lives all need water to function or produce. With only a small percentage of freshwater and the significant decrease of it over the years, many places around the world such as Cape Town Africa are running out of water. As the population grows and more water is needed for things such as, fuel farms, manufacture products and for transportation, over the next few years, the world will need more water to support such a large population. Going back to the example of Cape Town Africa, the day they would lose freshwater was a few years ago and now it has been pushed back. This is because citizens in Cape Town are more conscious of the amount of water they use. This shows that things can be taken for granted until they are gone which is why learning and trying to conserve water is important right now since water is the key to life. It has been proven to be effective and conserving the water we have left is relevant.

There are many ways to conserve water and just simple things can make a large difference in the amount of water that is used each day. The best ways to conserve water is to just try to not use as little as possible. Some examples of ways to conserve water is to not leave the tap on when it is not needed. For example, when washing your hands or brushing your teeth, when you don't have to use water for a few seconds, turning off the tap can conserve a large quantity of water since the amount always adds up. Making larger loads of laundry also conserve large amounts of water made by the washing machine. Washing clothes in larger amounts saves the amount of time the washing machine is needed because it would be less frequently used if smaller loads of laundry were washed. On the topic of washing, the frequent use of the dishwasher contributes to the large amount of water we use each day. Since the amount of space in a dishwasher is so large and a lot is needed to clean dishes, a lot of water is used. Instead, washing dishes by hand or washing larger load of dishes in the dishwasher are much better alternatives to keeping dishes clean while not using more water than what is needed. Another way water can be conserved is by taking shorter showers. The average person and recommendations for how long a shower should take is 8 minutes. On average, 1 minute of showering uses 2.5 gallons of water. If a shower takes longer than it needs to, taking shorter showers is both recommended and conserves more water. The largest source of water use in a household is from the toilet. Each time there's a flush, dispensing on the type, it can use multiple gallons of water per one flush. If the average person flushes 4 times a day, the amount of water used to flush is large. The best way to conserve this water is to get a low flow toilet which uses less water or put water filled jars in the water tank to bring up the water level so less water is used when the toilet flushes. Outside of the household and personal ways to reduce water, one of the biggest industries that need water to be maintained is the agriculture industry specifically farming. Over 70% of the world's freshwater we have is used for farming. Millions of gallons are used each year in order to maintain healthy crops. Since farming is such a large industry, better alternatives must be found in order to conserve water. Some of the best ways to conserve large amounts of water for crops is to use hydroponics or vertical farms. These ways of farming do not need

soil, just water. Multiple people have tried to create vertical farms and use hydroponics which have been proven to significantly reduce the amount of water needed.

There are several ways water can be reduced. This could be turning off the tap when it's not in use or simply using other methods that reduce water in order to do something. For instance, sweeping the driveway instead of hosing it down. As the freshwater that is currently available for use decreases as the years and population grow, simple and clever ways to reduce the amount of water used is important. There are multiple simple ways water can be reduced by the average human in their own household and choices to push back or stop the day when usable water will run out.