

WATER USAGE

- Ontarians use 260 litres/day of water, nearly twice as much as countries with similar living standards (UK, Germany, Netherlands).
- Nearly **65%** of all indoor water is used in the bathroom. Toilet flushing accounts for **30%** of home water use.
- Lawns require only **25 ml** of water/week.
- If all of the world's water were fit into a 4 litre jug, the fresh water available for us to use would equal only about 15 ml.



GENERAL WATER FACTS

- Water is the only substance that is found naturally on earth in three forms:
liquid gas solid
- Canada possesses **20%** of the world's fresh water but only **7%** is renewable.
- More than half of Canada's water drains north and so is not available to the majority of its people who live along its southern border.
- The Great Lakes make up one-fifth of the world's fresh surface water supply.**
- Water dissolves more substances than any other liquid. Wherever it travels, water carries chemicals, minerals, and nutrients with it.



DETROIT RIVER FACTS

- The Detroit River is not actually a river; it's a strait or a connecting channel.
- At the intersection of two major bird migration pathways (Mississippi and Atlantic).
- Canadian Waste Water Treatment Plants: **3 - 2** in Windsor, 1 in Amherstburg
- Canadian Drinking Water Plants: **2** - in Windsor and Amherstburg
- The Detroit River supports over **65** fish species and is internationally known for its walleye fishery.
- 6** Canadian islands: Pêche, Fighting, Grassy, Turkey, Crystal Bay, and Bois Blanc (Boblo) and **13** major U.S. islands.
- Due to fast water currents, it takes only **21** hours for a drop of water to travel from the head of the river to the mouth (into Lake Erie).
- Length: **51 km**
- Width: **600 m** at the Ambassador Bridge
6 km where it empties into Lake Erie
- Depth: **9 - 15 m** (upper portion)
3 - 9 m (lower portion)



CANADIAN WATER INFORMATION SOURCES

- Visit www.citizensenvironmentalliance.org and/or www.detroitriver.ca for a full list of water related websites regarding issues such as bottled water regulations, drinking water guidelines and water conservation.

Drinking Water Ontario: www.ontario.ca/ONT/portal61/drinkingwater
<http://www.waterdsm.org/>

Permits to Take Water: www.ene.gov.on.ca/envision/pttw.htm

Bottled Water Regulations: www.hc-sc.gc.ca/fn-an/securit/facts-faits/faqs_bottle_water-eau_embouteillee-eng.php

Drinking Water Guidelines: <http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/ewh-semt/water-eau/drink-potab/index-eng.php>

Water Conservation: <http://www.wuc.on.ca/conservation/water.cfm>

Local Source Water Protection: <http://www.essexregionsourcewater.org/>

Other Related Links:

http://www.bottledwaterfreeday.ca/index2.php?section_id=18

http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/fn-an/securit/facts-faits/faqs_bottle_water-eau_embouteillee-eng.php

<http://www.insidethebottle.org/>

<http://www.great-lakes.net/lakes/ref/lakefact.html>

www.detroitriver.ca

www.citizensenvironmentalliance.org



WATER QUALITY (tap vs. bottle)

- Both bottled water and municipally distributed tap water that meet or exceed their required health and safety standards are considered to be safe.

Tap water is regulated under the Ontario Safe Drinking Water Act and regulations. The province has set standards for 158 parameters. It also protects sources of drinking water and regulates drinking water systems, requiring training and licensing of operators, frequent sampling, regular testing by provincially licensed labs, and quick action in response to adverse test results. Bottled water is regulated under the federal Food and Drugs Regulations and Guidelines. Health Canada sets standards for bottled water – they relate primarily to microbiological safety and fluoride. Manufacturers of bottled water are not licensed, but the Canadian Food Inspection Agency inspects and enforces the federal regulations.



Environmental Impacts

- Imagine a water bottle filled 1/4 full of oil, that's how much oil was used to produce it.
- For every 6 water bottles used, only 1 is recycled, the rest end up in the landfill.



- Recycling 1 water bottle saves enough energy to power a 60 watt bulb for 6 hours.

- 650,000,000** water bottles are disposed of in Ontario every year.

Economic Impacts



- In Canada people pay more money for bottled water than they do for gasoline.
- 17.5% of Canadians drink bottled water providing the 4 biggest water providers with profits of **\$50 billion**.
- The cost of pumping and treating water and wastewater comprises between one-third to two-thirds of municipal electricity bills in Ontario.

Health Impacts



- Some aluminum water bottles have linings which leach harmful chemicals. The best choice for a re-usable water bottle is one made of stainless steel.
- Many plastic bottles contain BPA (Bisphenol A), a chemical which interferes with the body's hormone system, and can cause cancer.



- Bottled water is no healthier than tap water, in fact Dasani and Aquafina are just filtered tap water.

WATER CONSERVATION

- Water conservation is the most economical source of new water, about one-quarter the cost of new treatment plants, pumps and pipes.
- To conserve water, choose native trees, grasses or shrubs that tend to be drought resistant.
- Mulch your gardens to conserve the water in the soil.

- Don't lose it---catch it in a rain barrel!**

