

Facts about water



- The oceans contain 97% of all the water on earth. 2% is frozen at the Polar Regions, so just 1 drop out of 100 is fresh water for us to drink
- The oceans cover 70% of the Earth's surface
- If all of the world's water was in one bucket, just one teaspoonful would be fresh water that we could drink
- The largest liquid source of fresh water in the world can be found under the Sahara desert!
- Most water in the rocks under our feet is 1,000 year old rain water
- By 2025 half the world's population could be short of water
- One out of 8 people in the world have only dirty water to drink
- 2.5 billion people have nowhere safe or private to go to the toilet
- 4,000 children die every day from diseases caused by poor sanitation and unsafe water
- It costs WaterAid just £15 to enable one person in the developing world to gain access to a lasting supply of safe water, sanitation and improved hygiene
- In Britain each of us uses around 160 litres of water every day. In America they use 400 litres each every day!
- The average person in the developing world uses 10 litres of water every day for their drinking, washing and cooking
- Most people spend three whole years of their lives on the loo!
- It takes 1,000 tons of rain water to grow one ton of wheat to make our bread
- To provide the food we eat, the clothes we wear and all the things we buy, 100 times our own body weight in water is needed every day

- The weight of water that women in Africa carry on their heads is 20 kilos (44 lbs) which is the same weight as the heaviest suitcase you take on holiday
- Many children in Africa have to walk six kilometres every day to collect water and carry it home
- The water that children in Africa have to carry can weigh as much as a medium-sized dog
- Across the world 443 million school days are lost each year due to water-related diseases
- Water is good for us! We should drink around six glasses of water each day
- Eat lots of fruit and vegetables because they can provide much of our daily need for water
- Drink water even when you don't feel thirsty, by the time you do feel thirsty you could have lost up to five cups of water!
- Leaving the tap running when you clean your teeth can waste eight litres of clean water
- Just a reminder, WaterAid's life changing safe water, sanitation and hygiene projects cost as little as £15 per person

These facts were put together by Chris Wilcock, one of WaterAid's volunteer speakers, in support of WaterAid. WaterAid can not guarantee their accuracy.

WaterAid's statistics can be found at www.wateraid.org/statistics