



UNIVERSITY OF RICHMOND

Water Fact Sheet

WATER AT A GLOBAL SCALE

The majority of the world's water is salt water. Only 3% of the earth's water is fresh, with just .5% of that available for people to use. The rest is frozen in ice caps and glaciers, in the atmosphere, very deep underground, or highly polluted. Climate change is affecting water in many ways, including ocean acidification, rising sea levels, increased precipitation and flooding in certain areas, and more severe droughts in other regions.

25%

of large cities experience water stress and may face water shortages in the future.

844

million people worldwide do not have access to safe water.

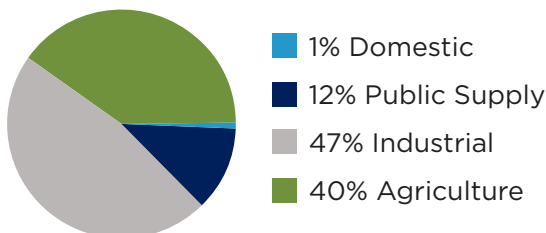
80%

of wastewater goes untreated globally.

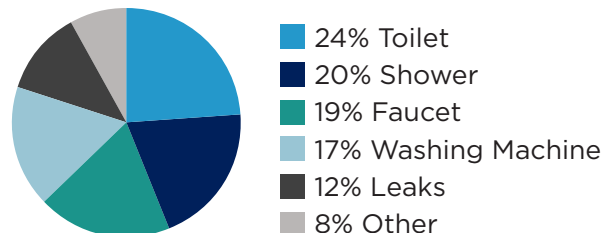
WATER IN THE UNITED STATES

The majority of water used in the United States goes towards industry and agriculture. Most of America's water comes from rivers, lakes, and reservoirs, while only a quarter comes from groundwater aquifers. Pollutants from untreated waste water, nutrient and animal waste runoff from agriculture, and chemicals from mining industrial sites can all threaten water quality.

WATER USE IN AMERICA

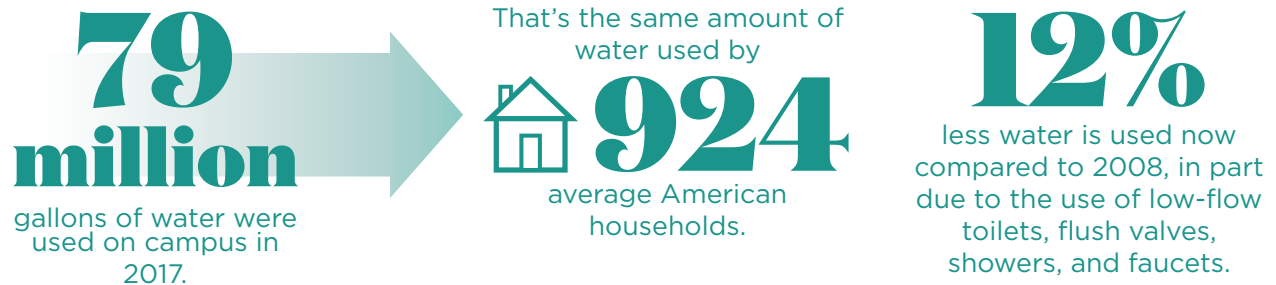


WATER USE IN HOMES



WATER AT UNIVERSITY OF RICHMOND

The University is committed to conserving water, helping the James River watershed, and protecting groundwater. Native and drought tolerant plant species reduce the need for irrigation, Energy Star machines and low-flow fixtures save water, and stream restoration of Little Westham Creek has improved the quality of water going from campus to the James River.



WATER IN THE SUSTAINABILITY PLAN

The Sustainability Plan will guide University of Richmond's stewardship efforts through 2025. Read the full plan online at richmond.edu/sustainabilityplan.



3.11.1 Create a watershed management plan focused on Westhampton Lake, groundwater recharge, and reduction of nutrient and sediment flow to the James River.



3.11.2 Explore the use of Westhampton Lake as a source of irrigation.



3.12.1 Adopt technologies for water reclamation and reuse.



3.11.4 Reduce the amount of water used for landscaping.



3.12.2 Sub-meter water usage in each building and reduce water use.

HOW YOU CAN CONSERVE WATER



Take shorter showers.



Turn off the water while you brush your teeth, shave, and wash dishes.



Eat lower on the food chain. Producing meat takes more water than growing produce. Choosing a couple vegetarian or vegan meals each week can save thousands of gallons of water a year.



Get involved with nonprofits caring for our watershed like the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, the Sierra Club, the James River Association, and Environment Virginia.

Sources: United States Bureau of Reclamation, U.S. Geological Survey, Environmental Protection Agency, Union of Concerned Scientists, "Water on an urban planet: Urbanization and the reach of urban water infrastructure" by McDonald et. al