

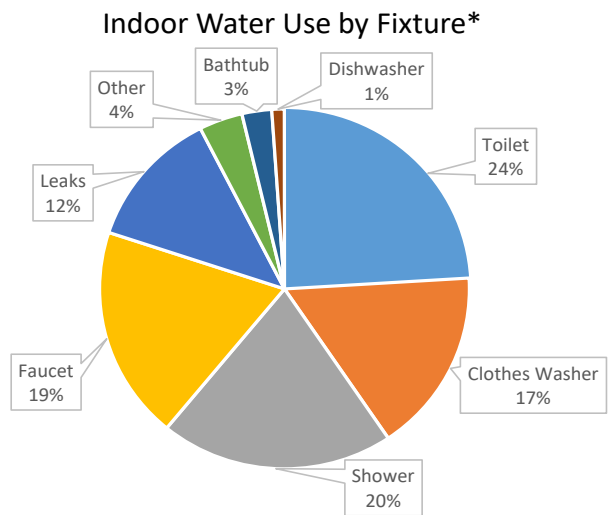
Environmental Education: Drinking Water and Being Water Wise

Weekly Water Use Chart (Grades 4+)

Background Information

Drinking water for the Greater Victoria Water System is currently provided from the Sooke and Goldstream watersheds. Together these watersheds comprise 10,927 hectares and include five surface reservoirs or lakes. These reservoirs collect and store runoff from precipitation, mostly in the form of rain. Collected water is treated before being distributed to our homes as clean tap water.

In the capital region, we use an average of **232** litres of water per person, per day. Most of our water use (**72%**) occurs indoors. Of all indoor water use, approximately **65%** occurs in one room — the washroom. It is important to be aware of where and how we use water. Awareness allows us to better protect and conserve our drinking water.



Did you know... 232 litres is the same as 58 milk jugs filled with water? That's a lot of water!



Activity Instructions

Use the provided table (or make your own) to record washroom water use throughout the day and week. Every time you use water in the washroom add a tally mark to your chart. The table also includes average volume and water use estimates for each fixture. Calculate daily totals, weekly totals or both for individual fixtures or total washroom water use. Before recording water use, have students hypothesis how much water they will use and which fixture will be used the most.

Discussion Questions

If the average CRD resident uses 232 litres of water per day and 65% of an average person's water use occurs in the washroom how many litres of water would you expect to use in the washroom everyday?

- expected washroom water use = 232 litres X 0.65

Did you use more or less water in the washroom than the average person?

Which category used the most water? Which used the least?

What are some things that would reduce water use in the washroom?

- water efficient fixtures (low flow toilets, low flow shower heads, faucet aerators, etc.)
- behaviour changes (shorter showers, shower instead of a bath, turn tap off when brushing teeth, tap off when shaving, only flush flushables, do not flush hair, dental floss, garbage)

Extensions

Create a new chart and include all the ways you use water at home (washing dishes, laundry, cooking, etc.)

Use an online [water use calculator](#) to estimate your total indoor water use.

Compare your daily water use to that of an average CRD resident (232 L/per day). How about to the average resident of British Columbia? Average Canadian?





* Chart values are 2014 estimates obtained from the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

My Weekly Water Use

Name: _____

Date: _____

Record how much water you use during the week by adding a tally mark each time you do one of the activities below.

| | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | | Weekly Totals |
|---|--------|---------|-----------|--|--------|--|--|
| Flush Toilet  6 litres per flush | | | | | | | How many times did you flush the toilet this week? _____ How many litres of water did your toilet use in total? $\frac{\text{number of flushes} \times 6 \text{ litres}}{}$ = _____ litres |
| Wash Hands  1.7 litres per wash | | | | | | | How many times did you wash your hands this week? _____ How much water did you use washing your hands? $\frac{\text{number of hand washing} \times 1.7 \text{ litres}}{}$ = _____ litres |
| Brush Teeth  11.4 litres with tap on 0.5 litres with tap off | | | | | | | How many times did you brush your teeth this week? _____ How much water did you use brushing your teeth? $\frac{\text{number of brushes} \times 11.4 \text{ or } 0.5 \text{ litres}}{}$ = _____ litres |
| Shower or Bath  65 litres per 8 min. shower 100 litres per bath | | | | | | | How many times did you shower or have a bath this week? _____ How much water did you use having a shower or bath? $\frac{\text{number of showers} \times 65 \text{ litres}}{}$ + $\frac{\text{number of baths} \times 100 \text{ litres}}{}$ = _____ litres |
| Other: (laundry, dishes, water lawn etc.) | | | | | | | |
| | | | | Total litres of water used: Add up your weekly total litres from each section. How many litres of water did you use this week? | | | $\frac{\text{toilet}}{}$ + $\frac{\text{hands}}{}$ + $\frac{\text{teeth}}{}$ + $\frac{\text{shower/bath}}{}$ _____ litres |