

Water Works Family Guide

Welcome!

At school, your child is learning about New Jersey's water system, water use, and conservation. Now we invite you to wade into the **Water Works** program at home!

More than 7 billion people live on this planet, and every one of us needs water to survive. Compared to people in many parts of the world, Americans use a lot of water. The average American family of four uses 400 gallons per day for household uses—and that doesn't count the water used to produce electricity, food, clothing, and other goods we consume. For example, it takes 1,000 gallons of water per person per day to produce the typical American diet.



How does your water use stack up?

Activity	Typical Water Use	Your Use
Showers	Five showers per person per week, eight minutes per shower	
Dishwashing	By hand: 20 gallons per load Dishwasher: 4–6 gallons per load	
Toilets	Standard toilets: 3.5 gallons per flush Low-flow toilets: 1.6 gallons per flush	
Laundry	Three loads per person per week	
Lawn/garden care	Nearly 60 percent of the average family's household water use goes toward lawn and garden care. (Factors: lawn size, plant types, climate, watering frequency)	
Food	One serving of beef requires 342 gallons to produce; one serving of pork requires 109 gallons; one serving of poultry requires 89 gallons; 1 cup of milk requires 55 gallons	

1. Look at your water usage habits. Which household activities use the most water in your home?
2. List five ways that your family can make changes to conserve water.



For a detailed online calculator to measure your water footprint, visit www.waterfootprint.org.

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