



Water Information Quick Facts

- Saskatchewan's major river systems are the North and South Saskatchewan, Assiniboine and Churchill which flow north and empty into the Hudson Bay.
- Origin of Saskatchewan's name is from the Plains Cree word, "kisiskatchewan", meaning "the river that flows swiftly"; a reference to the area's major river.
- Saskatchewan is approximately 651,900 square kilometres (more than a quarter million square miles) in size.
- Contrary to popular belief, one half the province is covered by forest, one-third by farmland and one-eighth by fresh water.
- Raindrops are not tear-shaped. Scientists, using high-speed cameras, have discovered that raindrops resemble the shape of a small hamburger bun.
- About 70 % of the human body is water. Life on earth probably originated in water. More than half of the world's animal and plant species live in the water. Almost 75 % of the earth is covered in water.
- The human body needs 2 to 3 litres of water a day in our climate; we can last only a few days without water.
- Most of our food is water: tomatoes (95%), spinach (91%), milk (90%), apples (85 %), potatoes (80%), beef (61%), hot dogs (56%).
- Water is the most common molecule found on earth. The only water we will ever have is what we have right now.
- In a 100-year period, a water molecule spends 98 years in the ocean, 20 months as ice, about 2 weeks in lakes and rivers, and less than a week in the atmosphere.
- Water is the only substance on earth naturally found in the three true element forms: solid, liquid and gas. Bones are 25 % water.
- A person can survive without food for more than 30 days, but less than a week without water.
- Wetlands cover about 13 % of the Canadian landscape. There has been approximately 70 % loss of Canada's wetlands settled areas.
- Over 600 species are supported by wetlands and associated habitat.
- Each day the sun evaporates 1,000,000,000,000 (a trillion) tons of water.
- About 80 % of our blood is water. It helps digest our food, transport waste and control body temperature.
- Once evaporated, a water molecule spends about 10 days in the air.

- Freshwater lakes, rivers and underground aquifers hold only 3 % of the world's water. By comparison, saltwater oceans and seas contain 97.5 % of the world's water supply.
- Of the total world's freshwater supply, about one third is found underground. About 7.6 % of Canada is covered by freshwater in lakes and rivers – 755,165 square kilometres.
- Canada's rivers and lakes contain enough water to flood the entire country to a depth of more than 2 metres.
- Canadians are the trustees of almost 25 % of all the world's wetlands, currently covering 13 % of the land area of Canada.
- Approximately 60 % of Canada's fresh water drains north.
- Canada holds 20 % of the world's fresh water but has only 7 % of the world's fresh renewable water.
- Water consumption usually drops 18 – 25 % after a water meter is installed.
- Approximately 1,000 kilograms of water is required to grow 1 kilogram of potatoes.
- Approximately 295,000 litres of water are required to produce 910 kilograms of paper.
- Approximately 86,300 litres of water are required to produce 910 kilograms of steel.
- On average, 16 % of municipal piped water is lost in pipeline leaks - up to 75% is recoverable.
- Newer toilets conserve water by using less than half of older models.
- Many homes loose more water from leaky taps than they need for cooking and drinking.
- Residential indoor water uses in Canada: Toilet – 30 %; bathing and showering – 35 %; laundry – 20 %; kitchen and drinking – 10 %; cleaning – 5 %.
- A 5-minute shower with a standard shower head uses 100 litres of water.
- A 5-minute shower with a low-flow shower head uses only 35 litres of water.
- During the summer, about half of all treated water is sprayed onto lawns and gardens.
- Water uses and consumption: toilet flush – 15–20 L; shower (10 min.) – 100 L; tub bath – 60 L; automatic dishwashing – 40 L; dishwashing by hand – 35 L; hand washing – 8 L (with tap running); brushing teeth – 10 L (with tap running); outdoor watering – 35 L per min; washing machine – 225 L.
- A single lawn sprinkler spraying 19 litres per minute uses 50 % more water in just one hour than a combination of ten toilet flushes, two 5-minute showers, two dishwasher loads and a full load of clothes.
- Each day humans must replace 2.4 litres of water, some through drinking and the rest taken by the body from the foods eaten.
- One litre of oil can contaminate up to 2 million litres of water.
- In 2019, the average daily total water use per capita in Saskatchewan is 359 litres per person per day.
- In 2006, Statistics Canada reported about 85 % of Saskatchewan residents rely on municipal or communal waterworks for domestic uses.
- In 2006, Statistics Canada reported that Saskatoon had the highest proportion of households drinking only tap water and the lowest rate of bottled water use (77 % and 10 %, respectively)
- About 25 % of municipal or communal waterworks use surface water and serve about 72 % of Saskatchewan residents.
- In 2019, Statistics Canada reported approximately 84 % and 16 % of the Saskatchewan population was served by drinking water plants accessing surface water (or groundwater under the influence of surface water) and groundwater sources, respectively.
- About 17 % of Saskatchewan residents (such as farmers, cottage owners, etc.) rely on private or individual works: the sources for these systems are groundwater (wells) or surface water (small reservoirs, dugouts, lakes, etc.)
- An 8-minute shower with a reduced-flow showerhead saves over 6.5 litres of hot water. That means annual savings of 14 % on water heating.
- Using a reduced-flow showerhead saves 7,500 litres of drinking water per year.

Water Trivia Questions

1. Water is the only substance found on earth naturally in three forms. True (Solid, liquid and gas)
2. Does water regulate the earth's temperature? Yes (it is a natural insulator)
3. At what temperature does water freeze? 32 degrees F, 0 degrees C
4. At what temperature does water vaporize? 212 degrees F, 100 degrees C
5. How long can a person live without food? More than a month
6. How long can a person live without water? Approximately one week, depending upon conditions
7. How much of the human body is water? 66 %
8. How much of the earth's surface is water? 80 %
9. How much water must a person consume per day to maintain health? 2.5 quarts from all sources (e.g. water, food)
10. Of all the earth's water, how much is ocean or seas? 97 %
11. How much of the world's water is frozen and therefore unusable? 2 %
12. How much of the earth's water is suitable for drinking water? 1 %
13. Is it possible for me to drink water that was part of the dinosaur era? Yes - water is constantly recycled
14. What is the most common substance found on earth? Water
15. How much water does the average residence use during a year? Over 100,000 gallons (indoors and outside)
16. How much water does an individual use daily? Over 100 gallons (all uses)
17. What does a person pay for water on a daily basis? National average is 25 cents
18. How much water do these utilities process daily? 38 billion gallons
19. What does it cost to operate the water systems throughout the country annually? Over \$ 3.5 billion
20. How many miles of pipeline and aqueducts are in the United States and Canada? Approximately one million miles, or enough to circle the earth 40 times
21. What were the first water pipes made from (in the US)? Fire charred bored logs

22. Where was the first municipal water filtration works opened and when? Paisley, Scotland in 1832
 23. Of the nation's community water supplies, what percentage are investor-owned? 15 %
 24. How many households use private wells for their water supply? More than 13 million
 25. How much water is used to flush a toilet? 2 – 7 gallons
 26. How much water is used in the average five-minute shower? 15 – 25 gallons
 27. How much water is used on the average for an automatic dishwasher? 9 – 12 gallons
 28. On the average, how much is used to hand wash dishes? 9 – 20 gallons
 29. How much does one gallon of water weigh? 8.34 pounds
 30. What is the weight of water in one cubic foot? 62.4 pounds
 31. How much water drops with an inch of rain? One inch of rainfall drops 7,000 gallons
 32. How much water does it take to process a quarter pound of hamburger? Approximately one gallon
 33. How much water does it take to produce one ton of steel? 62,600 gallons
 34. How much water is used to produce a single day's supply of U.S. newsprint? 300 million gallons
 35. What is the total amount of water used to manufacture a new car, including new tires? 39,090 gallons per car
 36. How much water must a dairy cow drink to produce one gallon of milk? 4 gallons
 37. How much water is used during the growing/production of a chicken? 400 gallons
 38. How much water is used during the growing/production of almonds? 12 gallons
 39. How much water is used during the growing/production of french fries? 6 gallons
 40. How much water is used during the growing/production of a single orange? 13.8 gallons
 41. How much water is used during the growing/production of a watermelon? 100 gallons
 42. How much water is used during the growing/production of a loaf of bread? 150 gallons
 43. How much water is used during the growing/production of a tomato? 3 gallons
 44. How much water is used during the growing/production of rice? 35 gallons
 45. How much water is used during the production of an egg? 120 gallons
- 