



- **Portable Restroom Unit Types**

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- **Portable Toilet Ratio Planning**

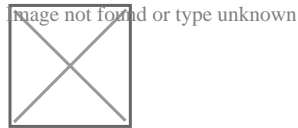
[Portable Toilet Ratio Planning](#) [Calculating Portable Toilet Ratios for Large Events](#) [Determining Restroom Needs for Small Gatherings](#) [Portable Sanitation Planning for Music Festivals](#) [Restroom Unit Estimates for Construction Crews](#) [Peak Usage Considerations for Event Toilets](#) [Adjusting Toilet Counts for Alcohol Service](#) [Calculating Restroom Units for Overnight Events](#) [Portable Toilet Planning for Remote Worksites](#) [Backup Restroom Unit Policies Explained](#) [High Traffic Event Strategies for Toilet Placement](#) [Toilets Needed for Family Friendly Outdoor Fairs](#) [Unit Ratios for Emergency Response Camps](#)

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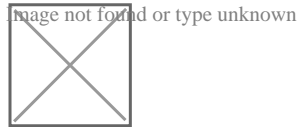


Long term construction rentals may qualify for monthly discounts **porta potty hand wash station** construction.

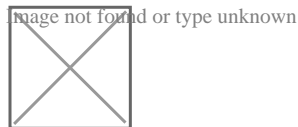
Lets face it, nobody *loves* talking about portable restrooms. But they are an integral part of outdoor events, construction sites, and disaster relief efforts. Understanding what constitutes a standard portable restroom, and the nuances surrounding its design and functionality, can actually be surprisingly helpful. Its about appreciating a necessary piece of infrastructure, and acknowledging the thought (and sometimes, the lack thereof) that goes into providing this basic human need.



When we say "standard," were generally referring to the single-occupancy, molded plastic enclosure youve probably encountered countless times. These arent the luxury trailers with flushing toilets and running water (though those certainly exist!). The standard portable restroom is designed for simplicity, portability, and cost-effectiveness.



The basic components are pretty consistent: a molded polyethylene shell, a toilet seat (hopefully clean!), a waste tank, a vent pipe, and a door with a latch. The shell is typically designed to be relatively lightweight for easy transport and maneuvering, yet sturdy enough to withstand the elements and a reasonable amount of abuse. The vent pipe is crucial – it allows gases from the waste tank to escape, minimizing odors within the enclosure. The waste tank itself is usually treated with chemicals to control odor and break down waste.



But "standard" doesnt necessarily mean "identical." There are variations within this basic design. Some might include a urinal, a hand sanitizer dispenser, or even a small shelf for personal belongings. The size of the waste tank can also vary, impacting the frequency of servicing. And, of course, the quality of the plastic, the sturdiness of the door latch, and the overall cleanliness can differ significantly depending on the provider and the event.

Understanding the limitations of a standard portable restroom is also key. They're not designed for long-term use. They're not designed for comfort. And, let's be honest, they're rarely designed with aesthetics in mind. They're a functional solution to a practical problem.

So, the next time you find yourself approaching a row of these ubiquitous blue (or green, or grey) boxes, take a moment to appreciate the engineering, however basic, that went into providing this essential service. It might not be glamorous, but it's certainly important. And understanding the standard portable restroom is understanding a small, but vital, part of our shared public spaces.

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About Water

For other uses, see Water (disambiguation). "H2O" redirects here. For other uses, see H2O (disambiguation).

Water

The water molecule has this basic geometric structure

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The water molecule has this basic geometric structure

Hydrogen, H

Ball-and-stick model of a water molecule

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Ball-and-stick model of a water molecule

Space filling model of a water molecule

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Space filling model of a water molecule

| Oxygen, O

A drop of water falling towards water in a glass

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A drop of water falling towards water in a glass

NamesPreferred IUPAC name

Water

Systematic IUPAC name

Oxidane (not in common use)<sup>[3]</sup>

Other names

- Hydrogen oxide
- Hydrogen hydroxide (H<sub>2</sub>O or HOH)
- Hydroxylic acid
- Dihydrogen monoxide (DHMO) (parody name<sup>[1]</sup>)
- Dihydrogen oxide
- Hydric acid
- Hydrohydroxic acid
- Hydroxic acid
- Hydroxoic acid
- Hydrol<sup>[2]</sup>
- ?-Oxidodihydrogen
- ?<sup>1</sup>-Hydroxylhydrogen(0)
- Aqua
- Neutral liquid
- Oxygen dihydride (may be considered incorrect)

## Identifiers

- 7732-18-5 Image not found or type unknown  
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## CAS Number

- Interactive image

## 3D model (JSmol)

## Beilstein Reference 3587155

- CHEBI:15377 Image not found or type unknown  
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## ChEBI

- ChEMBL1098659 Image not found or type unknown  
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## ChEMBL

- 937 Image not found or type unknown  
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ChemSpider

- DB09145

DrugBank

ECHA InfoCard100.028.902 Image not found or type unknown  
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- 231-791-2

EC Number

Gmelin Reference 117

- C00001

KEGG

- 962

PubChem CID

- ZC0110000

RTECS number

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CompTox Dashboard (EPA)

InChI

InChI=1S/H2O/h1H2 Image not found or type unknown  
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Key: XLYOFNOQVPJJNP-UHFFFAOYSA-N Image not found or type unknown  
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SMILES

O

Properties

Chemical formula

H

<sup>2</sup>O Molar mass 18.01528(33) g/mol Appearance Almost colorless or white crystalline solid, almost colorless liquid, with a hint of blue, colorless gas<sup>[4]</sup> Odor Odorless

- Liquid (1 atm, VSMOW):
- 0.999 842 83(84) g/mL at 0 °C<sup>[5]</sup>
- 0.999 974 95(84) g/mL at 3.983 035(670) °C (temperature of maximum density, often 4 °C)<sup>[5]</sup>
- 0.997 047 02(83) g/mL at 25 °C<sup>[5]</sup>
- 0.961 887 91(96) g/mL at 95 °C<sup>[6]</sup>
- Solid:
- 0.9167 g/mL at 0 °C<sup>[7]</sup>

Density

Melting point 0.00 °C (32.00 °F; 273.15 K) <sup>[b]</sup> Boiling point 99.98 °C (211.96 °F; 373.13 K) <sup>[17][b]</sup>

Solubility Poorly soluble in haloalkanes, aliphatic and aromatic hydrocarbons, ethers<sup>[8]</sup>

Improved solubility in carboxylates, alcohols, ketones, amines.

Miscible with methanol, ethanol, propanol, isopropanol, acetone, glycerol, 1,4-dioxane, tetrahydrofuran, sulfolane, acetaldehyde, dimethylformamide, dimethoxyethane, dimethyl sulfoxide, acetonitrile.

Partially miscible with diethyl ether, methyl ethyl ketone, dichloromethane, ethyl acetate, bromine. Vapor pressure 3.1690 kilopascals or 0.031276 atm at 25 °C<sup>[9]</sup> Acidity (pK<sub>a</sub>) 13.995<sup>[10][11]</sup>  
<sup>[a]</sup> Basicity (pK<sub>b</sub>) 13.995 Conjugate acid Hydronium H<sub>3</sub>O<sup>+</sup> (pK<sub>a</sub> = 0) Conjugate base Hydroxide OH<sup>-</sup> (pK<sub>b</sub> = 0) Thermal conductivity 0.6065 W/(m·K)<sup>[14]</sup>

Refractive index (*n*<sub>D</sub>)

1.3330 (20 °C)<sup>[15]</sup> Viscosity 0.890 mPa·s (0.890 cP)<sup>[16]</sup> Structure

Crystal structure

Hexagonal

Point group

C<sub>2v</sub>

Molecular shape

Bent

Dipole moment

1.8546 D<sup>[18]</sup>Thermochemistry

Heat capacity (C)

75.385 ± 0.05 J/(mol·K)<sup>[17]</sup>

Std molar  
entropy (S<sub>298</sub><sup>o</sup>)

69.95 ± 0.03 J/(mol·K)<sup>[17]</sup>

Std enthalpy of  
formation (Δ<sub>f</sub>H<sub>298</sub><sup>o</sup>)

-285.83 ± 0.04 kJ/mol<sup>[8]</sup><sup>[17]</sup>

Gibbs free energy (Δ<sub>f</sub>G<sup>o</sup>)

-237.24 kJ/mol<sup>[8]</sup>Hazards**Occupational safety and health (OHS/OSH):**

Main hazards

Drowning

Avalanche (as snow)

Water intoxication**NFPA 704** (fire diamond)

NFPA 704 four-colored diamond

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Flash pointNon-flammableRelated compounds

- Hydrogen sulfide
- Hydrogen selenide
- Hydrogen telluride
- Hydrogen polonide

- Hydrogen peroxide

## Other anions

- Acetone
- Ethanol
- Methanol
- Hydrogen fluoride
- Ammonia

## Related solvents

## Supplementary data pageWater (data page)

Except where otherwise noted, data are given for materials in their standard state (at 25 °C [77 °F], 100 kPa).

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 Infobox references

**Water** is an inorganic compound with the chemical formula H<sub>2</sub>O. It is a transparent, tasteless, odorless,<sup>[C]</sup> and nearly colorless chemical substance. It is the main constituent of Earth's hydrosphere and the fluids of all known living organisms (in which it acts as a solvent<sup>[20]</sup>). It is vital for all known forms of life, despite not providing food energy or organic micronutrients. Its chemical formula,

H<sub>2</sub>O, indicates that each of its molecules contains one oxygen and two hydrogen atoms, connected by covalent bonds. The hydrogen atoms are attached to the oxygen atom at an angle of 104.45°.<sup>[21]</sup> In liquid form,

H<sub>2</sub>O is also called "water" at standard temperature and pressure.

Because Earth's environment is relatively close to water's triple point, water exists on Earth as a solid, a liquid, and a gas.<sup>[22]</sup> It forms precipitation in the form of rain and aerosols in the form of fog. Clouds consist of suspended droplets of water and ice, its solid state. When finely divided, crystalline ice may precipitate in the form of snow. The gaseous state of water is steam or water vapor.

Water covers about 71.0% of the Earth's surface, with seas and oceans making up most of the water volume (about 96.5%).<sup>[23]</sup> Small portions of water occur as groundwater (1.7%), in the glaciers and the ice caps of Antarctica and Greenland (1.7%), and in the air as vapor, clouds (consisting of ice and liquid water suspended in air), and precipitation (0.001%).<sup>[24][25]</sup> Water

moves continually through the water cycle of evaporation, transpiration (evapotranspiration), condensation, precipitation, and runoff, usually reaching the sea.

Water plays an important role in the world economy. Approximately 70% of the fresh water used by humans goes to agriculture.<sup>[26]</sup> Fishing in salt and fresh water bodies has been, and continues to be, a major source of food for many parts of the world, providing 6.5% of global protein.<sup>[27]</sup> Much of the long-distance trade of commodities (such as oil, natural gas, and manufactured products) is transported by boats through seas, rivers, lakes, and canals. Large quantities of water, ice, and steam are used for cooling and heating in industry and homes. Water is an excellent solvent for a wide variety of substances, both mineral and organic; as such, it is widely used in industrial processes and in cooking and washing. Water, ice, and snow are also central to many sports and other forms of entertainment, such as swimming, pleasure boating, boat racing, surfing, sport fishing, diving, ice skating, snowboarding, and skiing.

## Etymology

[edit]

The word *water* comes from Old English ***w**æter*, from Proto-Germanic *\*watar* (source also of Old Saxon *watar*, Old Frisian *wetir*, Dutch *water*, Old High German *wazzar*, German *Wasser*, *vāt*n, Gothic *𐍄𐍅𐍂𐍅* (*wato*)), from Proto-Indo-European *\*wod-or*, suffixed form of root *\*wed-* ('water'; 'wet').<sup>[28]</sup> Also cognate, through the Indo-European root, with Greek *ὔδωρ* (*ýdor*, from Ancient Greek *ὑδρῶν* (*hýdōn*), whence English 'hydro-'), Russian *водá* (*vodá*), Irish *uisce*, and Albanian *ujë*.

## History

[edit]

Main articles: Origin of water on Earth § History of water on Earth, and Properties of water § History

## On Earth

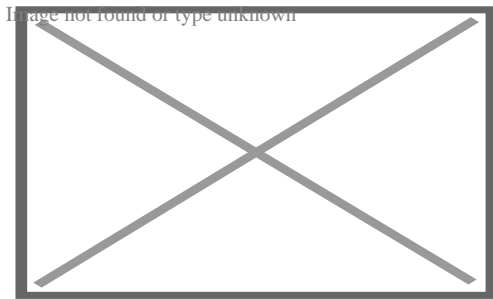
[edit]

This section is an excerpt from Origin of water on Earth § History of water on Earth.[edit]

One factor in estimating when water appeared on Earth is that water is continually being lost to space. H<sub>2</sub>O molecules in the atmosphere are broken up by photolysis, and the resulting free hydrogen atoms can sometimes escape Earth's gravitational pull. When the Earth was younger and less massive, water would have been lost to space more easily.<sup>[29]</sup> Lighter elements like hydrogen and helium are expected to leak from the atmosphere continually, but isotopic ratios of heavier noble gases in the modern atmosphere suggest that even the heavier elements in the early atmosphere were subject to significant losses.<sup>[30]</sup> In particular, xenon is useful for calculations of water loss over time. Not only is it a noble gas (and therefore is not removed from the atmosphere through chemical reactions with other elements), but comparisons between the abundances of its nine stable isotopes in the modern atmosphere reveal that the Earth lost at least one ocean of water, a volume of water approximately equal to modern ocean volume, early in its

history. This is likely to have occurred between the Hadean and Archean eons in cataclysmic events such as the moon forming impact.[<sup>31</sup>]

Any water on Earth during the latter part of its accretion would have been disrupted by the Moon-forming impact (~4.5 billion years ago), which likely vaporized much of Earth's crust and upper mantle and created a rock-vapor atmosphere around the young planet.[<sup>32</sup>][<sup>33</sup>] The rock vapor would have condensed within two thousand years, leaving behind hot volatiles which probably resulted in a majority carbon dioxide atmosphere with hydrogen and water vapor. Afterward, liquid water oceans may have existed despite the surface temperature of 230 °C (446 °F) due to the increased atmospheric pressure of the CO<sub>2</sub> atmosphere.[<sup>34</sup>] As the cooling continued, most CO<sub>2</sub> was removed from the atmosphere by subduction and dissolution in ocean water, but levels oscillated wildly as new surface and mantle cycles appeared.[<sup>35</sup>]



This pillow basalt on the seafloor near Hawaii was formed when magma extruded underwater. Other, much older pillow basalt formations provide evidence for large bodies of water long ago in Earth's history.

Geological evidence also helps constrain the time frame for liquid water existing on Earth. A sample of pillow basalt (a type of rock formed during an underwater eruption) was recovered from the Isua Greenstone Belt and provides evidence that water existed on Earth 3.8 billion years ago[<sup>36</sup>] In the Nuvvuagittuq Greenstone Belt, Quebec, Canada, rocks dated at 3.8 billion years old by one study[<sup>37</sup>] and 4.28 billion years old by another[<sup>38</sup>] show evidence of the presence of water at these ages.[<sup>36</sup>] If oceans existed earlier than this, any geological evidence has yet to be discovered (which may be because such potential evidence has been destroyed by geological processes like crustal recycling). More recently, in August 2020, researchers reported that sufficient water to fill the oceans may have always been on the Earth since the beginning of the planet's formation.[<sup>39</sup>][<sup>40</sup>][<sup>41</sup>]

Unlike rocks, minerals called zircons are highly resistant to weathering and geological processes and so are used to understand conditions on the very early Earth. Mineralogical evidence from zircons has shown that liquid water and an atmosphere must have existed  $4.404 \pm 0.008$  billion years ago, very soon after the formation of Earth.[<sup>42</sup>][<sup>43</sup>][<sup>44</sup>][<sup>45</sup>] This presents somewhat of a paradox, as the cool early Earth hypothesis suggests temperatures were cold enough to freeze water between about 4.4 billion and 4.0 billion years ago.[<sup>46</sup>] Other studies of zircons found in Australian Hadean rock point to the existence of plate tectonics as early as 4 billion years ago[<sup>47</sup>] If true, that implies that rather than a hot, molten surface and an atmosphere full of carbon dioxide, early Earth's surface was much as it is today (in terms of thermal insulation). The action of plate tectonics traps vast amounts of CO<sub>2</sub>, thereby reducing greenhouse effects, leading to a much cooler surface temperature and the formation of solid rock and liquid water.[<sup>48</sup>]

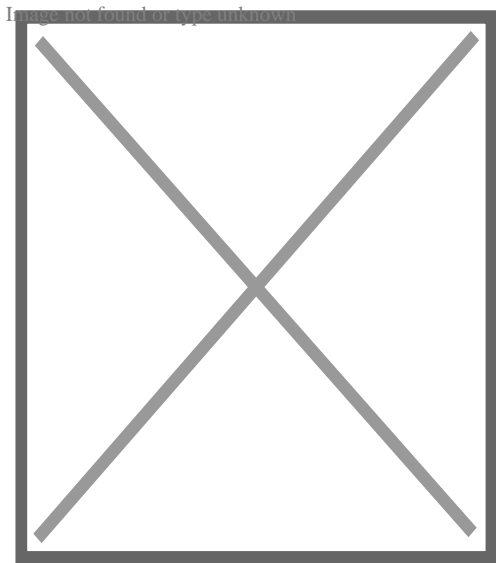


## Properties

[edit]

Main article: Properties of water

See also: Water (data page) and Water model



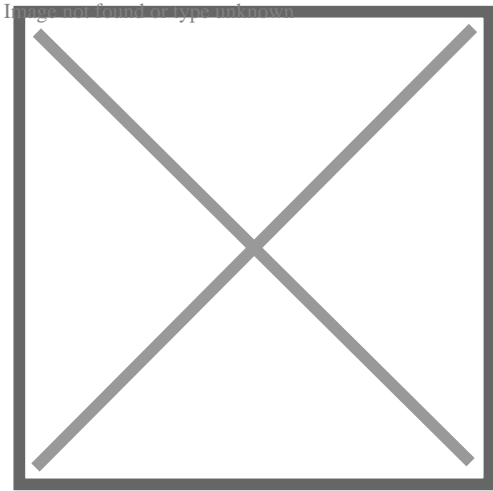
A water molecule consists of two hydrogen atoms and one oxygen atom.

Water (

H<sub>2</sub>O) is a polar inorganic compound. At room temperature it is a tasteless and odorless liquid, nearly colorless with a hint of blue. The simplest hydrogen chalcogenide, it is by far the most studied chemical compound and is sometimes described as the "universal solvent" for its ability to dissolve more substances than any other liquid,<sup>[49]</sup><sup>[50]</sup> though it is poor at dissolving nonpolar substances.<sup>[51]</sup> This allows it to be the "solvent of life":<sup>[52]</sup> indeed, water as found in nature almost always includes various dissolved substances, and special steps are required to obtain chemically pure water. Water is the only common substance to exist as a solid, liquid, and gas in normal terrestrial conditions.<sup>[53]</sup>

## States

[edit]



The three common states of matter

Along with *oxidane*, *water* is one of the two official names for the chemical compound  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$ ;

it is also the liquid phase of  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$ .

The other two common states of matter of water are the solid phase, ice, and the gaseous phase, water vapor or steam. The addition or removal of heat can cause phase transitions: freezing (water to ice), melting (ice to water), vaporization (water to vapor), condensation (vapor to water), sublimation (ice to vapor) and deposition (vapor to ice).

## Density

[edit]

See also: Frost weathering

Water is one of only a few common naturally occurring substances which, for some temperature ranges, become less dense as they cool, and the only known naturally occurring substance which does so while liquid. In addition it is unusual as it becomes significantly less dense as it freezes, though it is not unique in that respect.

At 1 atm pressure, it reaches its maximum density of  $999.972 \text{ kg/m}^3$  ( $62.4262 \text{ lb/cu ft}$ ) at  $3.98 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$  ( $39.16 \text{ }^\circ\text{F}$ ).

Below that temperature, but above the freezing point of  $0 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$  ( $32 \text{ }^\circ\text{F}$ ), it expands becoming less dense until it reaches freezing point, reaching a density in its liquid phase of  $999.8 \text{ kg/m}^3$  ( $62.4155 \text{ lb/cu ft}$ ).

Once it freezes and becomes ice, it expands by about 9%, with a density of  $917 \text{ kg/m}^3$  ( $57.25 \text{ lb/cu ft}$ ). This expansion can exert enormous pressure, bursting pipes and cracking rocks. As a solid, it displays the usual behavior of contracting and becoming more dense as it cools. These unusual thermal properties have important consequences for life on earth.

In a lake or ocean, water at  $4 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$  ( $39 \text{ }^\circ\text{F}$ ) sinks to the bottom, and ice forms on the surface, floating on the liquid water. This ice insulates the water below, preventing it from freezing solid. Without

this protection, most aquatic organisms residing in lakes would perish during the winter.<sup>[63]</sup> In addition, this anomalous behavior is an important part of the thermohaline circulation which distributes heat around the planet's oceans.

## Magnetism

[edit]

Water is a diamagnetic material.<sup>[64]</sup> Though interaction is weak, with superconducting magnets it can attain a notable interaction.<sup>[64]</sup>

## Phase transitions

[edit]

At a pressure of one atmosphere (atm), ice melts or water freezes (solidifies) at 0 °C (32 °F) and water boils or vapor condenses at 100 °C (212 °F). However, even below the boiling point, water can change to vapor at its surface by evaporation (vaporization throughout the liquid is known as boiling). Sublimation and deposition also occur on surfaces.<sup>[56]</sup> For example, frost is deposited on cold surfaces while snowflakes form by deposition on an aerosol particle or ice nucleus.<sup>[65]</sup> In the process of freeze-drying, a food is frozen and then stored at low pressure so the ice on its surface sublimates.<sup>[66]</sup>

The melting and boiling points depend on pressure. A good approximation for the rate of change of the melting temperature with pressure is given by the Clausius–Clapeyron relation:

$$\frac{dT}{dP} = \frac{T}{L} (v_L - v_S)$$

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where  $v_L$  and  $v_S$  are the molar volumes of the liquid and solid phases, and  $L$  is the latent heat of melting. In most substances, the volume increases when melting occurs, so the melting temperature increases with pressure. However, because ice is less dense than water, the melting temperature decreases.<sup>[57]</sup> In glaciers, pressure melting can occur under sufficiently thick volumes of ice, resulting in subglacial lakes.<sup>[67]</sup><sup>[68]</sup>

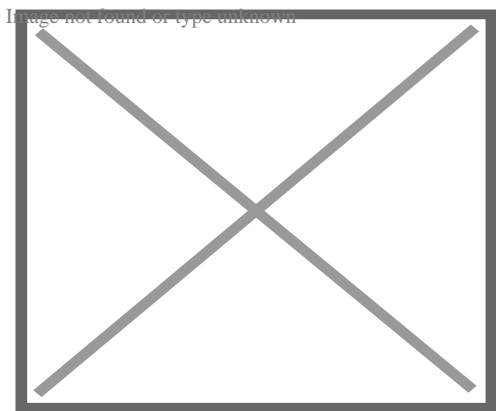
The Clausius-Clapeyron relation also applies to the boiling point, but with the liquid/gas transition the vapor phase has a much lower density than the liquid phase, so the boiling point increases with pressure.<sup>[69]</sup> Water can remain in a liquid state at high temperatures in the deep ocean or underground. For example, temperatures exceed 205 °C (401 °F) in Old Faithful, a geyser in Yellowstone National Park.<sup>[70]</sup> In hydrothermal vents, the temperature can exceed 400 °C (752 °F).<sup>[71]</sup>

At sea level, the boiling point of water is 100 °C (212 °F). As atmospheric pressure decreases with altitude, the boiling point decreases by 1 °C every 274 meters. High-altitude cooking takes longer

than sea-level cooking. For example, at 1,524 metres (5,000 ft), cooking time must be increased by a fourth to achieve the desired result.<sup>[72]</sup> Conversely, a pressure cooker can be used to decrease cooking times by raising the boiling temperature.<sup>[73]</sup> In a vacuum, water will boil at room temperature.<sup>[74]</sup>

## Triple and critical points

[edit]



Phase diagram of water

On a pressure/temperature phase diagram (see figure), there are curves separating solid from vapor, vapor from liquid, and liquid from solid. These meet at a single point called the triple point, where all three phases can coexist. The triple point is at a temperature of 273.16 K (0.01 °C; 32.02 °F) and a pressure of 611.657 pascals (0.00604 atm; 0.0887 psi).<sup>[75]</sup> It is the lowest pressure at which liquid water can exist. Until 2019, the triple point was used to define the Kelvin temperature scale.<sup>[76][77]</sup>

The water/vapor phase curve terminates at 647.096 K (373.946 °C; 705.103 °F) and 22.064 megapascals (3,200.1 psi; 217.75 atm).<sup>[78]</sup> This is known as the critical point. At higher temperatures and pressures the liquid and vapor phases form a continuous phase called a supercritical fluid. It can be gradually compressed or expanded between gas-like and liquid-like densities; its properties (which are quite different from those of ambient water) are sensitive to density. For example, for suitable pressures and temperatures it can mix freely with nonpolar compounds, including most organic compounds. This makes it useful in a variety of applications including high-temperature electrochemistry and as an ecologically benign solvent or catalyst in chemical reactions involving organic compounds. In Earth's mantle, it acts as a solvent during mineral formation, dissolution and deposition.<sup>[79][80]</sup>

## Phases of ice and water

[edit]

Main article: Ice

The normal form of ice on the surface of Earth is ice  $I_h$ , a phase that forms crystals with hexagonal symmetry. Another with cubic crystalline symmetry, ice  $I_c$ , can occur in the upper atmosphere.<sup>[81]</sup> As the pressure increases, ice forms other crystal structures. As of 2024, twenty have been experimentally confirmed and several more are predicted theoretically.<sup>[82]</sup> The eighteenth form of ice, ice XVIII, a face-centred-cubic, superionic ice phase, was discovered when a droplet of water was subject to a shock wave that raised the water's pressure to millions of atmospheres and its temperature to thousands of degrees, resulting in a structure of rigid oxygen atoms in which hydrogen atoms flowed freely.<sup>[83][84]</sup> When sandwiched between layers of graphene, ice forms a square lattice.<sup>[85]</sup>

The details of the chemical nature of liquid water are not well understood; some theories suggest that its unusual behavior is due to the existence of two liquid states.<sup>[59][86][87][88]</sup>

## Taste and odor

[edit]

Pure water is usually described as tasteless and odorless, although humans have specific sensors that can feel the presence of water in their mouths,<sup>[89][90]</sup> and frogs are known to be able to smell it.<sup>[91]</sup> However, water from ordinary sources (including mineral water) usually has many dissolved substances that may give it varying tastes and odors. Humans and other animals have developed senses that enable them to evaluate the potability of water to avoid water that is too salty or putrid.<sup>[92]</sup>

## Color and appearance

[edit]

Main article: Color of water

See also: Electromagnetic absorption by water

Pure water is visibly blue due to absorption of light in the region c. 600–800 nm.<sup>[93]</sup> The color can be easily observed in a glass of tap-water placed against a pure white background, in daylight. The principal absorption bands responsible for the color are overtones of the O–H stretching vibrations. The apparent intensity of the color increases with the depth of the water column, following Beer's law. This also applies, for example, with a swimming pool when the light source is sunlight reflected from the pool's white tiles.

In nature, the color may also be modified from blue to green due to the presence of suspended solids or algae.

In industry, near-infrared spectroscopy is used with aqueous solutions as the greater intensity of the lower overtones of water means that glass cuvettes with short path-length may be employed. To observe the fundamental stretching absorption spectrum of water or of an aqueous solution in the region around  $3,500\text{ cm}^{-1}$  ( $2.85\text{ }\mu\text{m}$ )<sup>[94]</sup> a path length of about  $25\text{ }\mu\text{m}$  is needed. Also, the cuvette must be both transparent around  $3500\text{ cm}^{-1}$  and insoluble in water; calcium fluoride is one

material that is in common use for the cuvette windows with aqueous solutions.

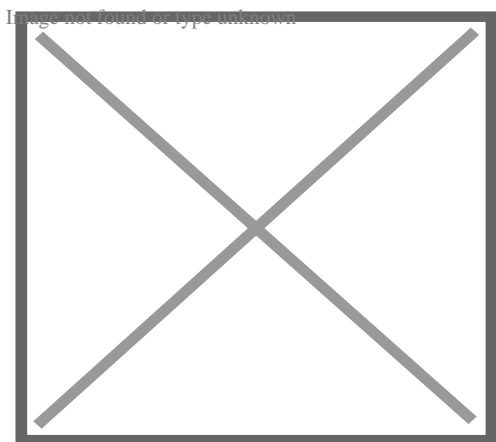
The Raman-active fundamental vibrations may be observed with, for example, a 1 cm sample cell.

Aquatic plants, algae, and other photosynthetic organisms can live in water up to hundreds of meters deep, because sunlight can reach them. Practically no sunlight reaches the parts of the oceans below 1,000 metres (3,300 ft) of depth.

The refractive index of liquid water (1.333 at 20 °C (68 °F)) is much higher than that of air (1.0), similar to those of alkanes and ethanol, but lower than those of glycerol (1.473), benzene (1.501), carbon disulfide (1.627), and common types of glass (1.4 to 1.6). The refraction index of ice (1.31) is lower than that of liquid water.

## Molecular polarity

[edit]



Tetrahedral structure of water

In a water molecule, the hydrogen atoms form a  $104.5^\circ$  angle with the oxygen atom. The hydrogen atoms are close to two corners of a tetrahedron centered on the oxygen. At the other two corners are *lone pairs* of valence electrons that do not participate in the bonding. In a perfect tetrahedron, the atoms would form a  $109.5^\circ$  angle, but the repulsion between the lone pairs is greater than the repulsion between the hydrogen atoms.<sup>[95]</sup><sup>[96]</sup> The O–H bond length is about 0.096 nm.<sup>[97]</sup>

Other substances have a tetrahedral molecular structure, for example methane (CH<sub>4</sub>) and hydrogen sulfide (H<sub>2</sub>S). However, oxygen is more electronegative than most other elements, so the oxygen atom has a negative partial charge while the hydrogen atoms are partially positively charged. Along with the bent structure, this gives the molecule an electrical dipole moment and it is classified as a polar molecule.<sup>[98]</sup>

Water is a good polar solvent, dissolving many salts and hydrophilic organic molecules such as sugars and simple alcohols such as ethanol. Water also dissolves many gases, such as oxygen and carbon dioxide—the latter giving the fizz of carbonated beverages, sparkling wines and beers.

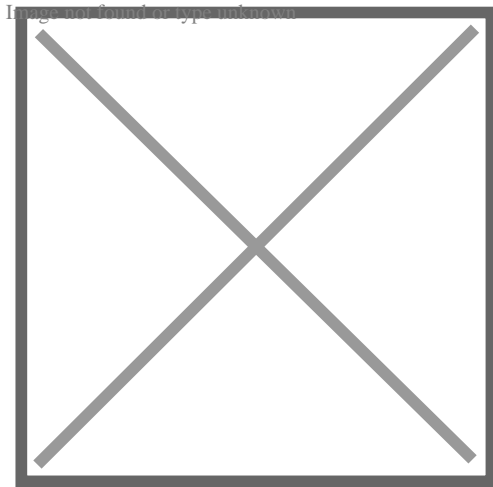
In addition, many substances in living organisms, such as proteins, DNA and polysaccharides, are dissolved in water. The interactions between water and the subunits of these biomacromolecules shape protein folding, DNA base pairing, and other phenomena crucial to life (hydrophobic effect).

Many organic substances (such as fats and oils and alkanes) are hydrophobic, that is, insoluble in water. Many inorganic substances are insoluble too, including most metal oxides, sulfides, and silicates.

## Hydrogen bonding

[edit]

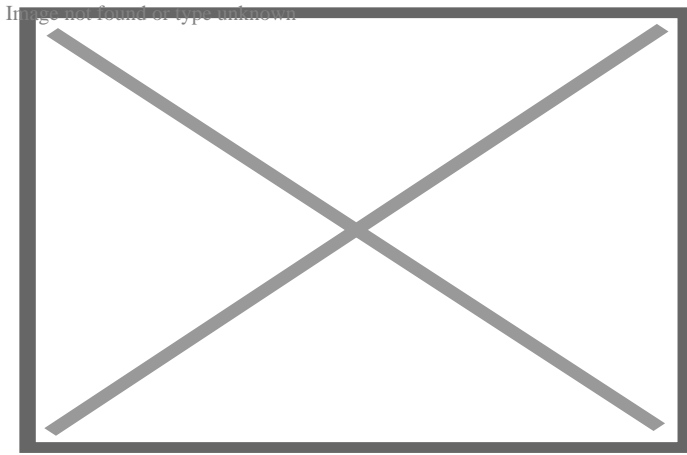
See also: Chemical bonding of water



Model of hydrogen bonds (1) between molecules of water

Because of its polarity, a molecule of water in the liquid or solid state can form up to four hydrogen bonds with neighboring molecules. Hydrogen bonds are about ten times as strong as the Van der Waals force that attracts molecules to each other in most liquids. This is the reason why the melting and boiling points of water are much higher than those of other analogous compounds like hydrogen sulfide. They also explain its exceptionally high specific heat capacity (about  $4.2 \text{ J}/(\text{g}\cdot\text{K})$ ), heat of fusion (about  $333 \text{ J/g}$ ), heat of vaporization ( $2257 \text{ J/g}$ ), and thermal conductivity (between  $0.561$  and  $0.679 \text{ W}/(\text{m}\cdot\text{K})$ ). These properties make water more effective at moderating Earth's climate, by storing heat and transporting it between the oceans and the atmosphere. The hydrogen bonds of water are around  $23 \text{ kJ/mol}$  (compared to a covalent O–H bond at  $492 \text{ kJ/mol}$ ). Of this, it is estimated that 90% is attributable to electrostatics, while the remaining 10% is partially covalent. <sup>[99]</sup>

These bonds are the cause of water's high surface tension<sup>[100]</sup> and capillary forces. The capillary action refers to the tendency of water to move up a narrow tube against the force of gravity. This property is relied upon by all vascular plants, such as trees.<sup>[citation needed]</sup>



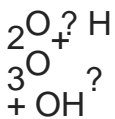
Specific heat capacity of water<sup>[101]</sup>

## Self-ionization

[edit]

Main article: Self-ionization of water

Water is a weak solution of hydronium hydroxide—there is an equilibrium  $2\text{H}_2\text{O} \rightleftharpoons \text{H}_3\text{O}^+ + \text{OH}^-$



, in combination with solvation of the resulting hydronium and hydroxide ions.

## Electrical conductivity and electrolysis

[edit]

Pure water has a low electrical conductivity, which increases with the dissolution of a small amount of ionic material such as common salt.

Liquid water can be split into the elements hydrogen and oxygen by passing an electric current through it—a process called electrolysis. The decomposition requires more energy input than the heat released by the inverse process (285.8 kJ/mol, or 15.9 MJ/kg).<sup>[102]</sup>

## Mechanical properties

[edit]

Liquid water can be assumed to be incompressible for most purposes: its compressibility ranges from  $4.4$  to  $5.1 \times 10^{-10} \text{ Pa}^{-1}$  in ordinary conditions.<sup>[103]</sup> Even in oceans at 4 km depth, where the pressure is 400 atm, water suffers only a 1.8% decrease in volume.<sup>[104]</sup>

The viscosity of water is about  $10^{-3} \text{ Pa}\cdot\text{s}$  or 0.01 poise at 20 °C (68 °F), and the speed of sound in liquid water ranges between 1,400 and 1,540 metres per second (4,600 and 5,100 ft/s) depending



on temperature. Sound travels long distances in water with little attenuation, especially at low frequencies (roughly 0.03 dB/km for 1 kHz), a property that is exploited by cetaceans and humans for communication and environment sensing (sonar).<sup>[105]</sup>

## Reactivity

[edit]

Metallic elements which are more electropositive than hydrogen, particularly the alkali metals and alkaline earth metals such as lithium, sodium, calcium, potassium and caesium displace hydrogen from water, forming hydroxides and releasing hydrogen. At high temperatures, carbon reacts with steam to form carbon monoxide and hydrogen.<sup>*[citation needed]*</sup>

## On Earth

[edit]

Main articles: Hydrology and Water distribution on Earth

Hydrology is the study of the movement, distribution, and quality of water throughout the Earth. The study of the distribution of water is hydrography. The study of the distribution and movement of groundwater is hydrogeology, of glaciers is glaciology, of inland waters is limnology and distribution of oceans is oceanography. Ecological processes with hydrology are in the focus of ecohydrology.

The collective mass of water found on, under, and over the surface of a planet is called the hydrosphere. Earth's approximate water volume (the total water supply of the world) is 1.386 billion cubic kilometres (333 million cubic miles).<sup>[24]</sup>

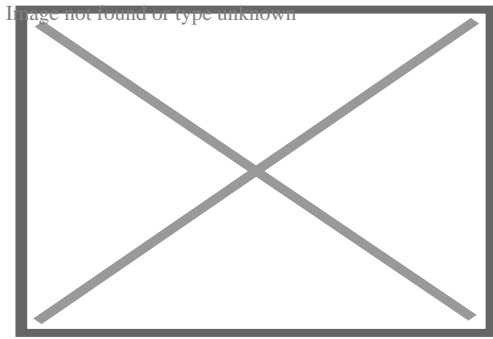
Liquid water is found in bodies of water, such as an ocean, sea, lake, river, stream, canal, pond, or puddle. The majority of water on Earth is seawater. Water is also present in the atmosphere in solid, liquid, and vapor states. It also exists as groundwater in aquifers.

Water is important in many geological processes. Groundwater is present in most rocks, and the pressure of this groundwater affects patterns of faulting. Water in the mantle is responsible for the melt that produces volcanoes at subduction zones. On the surface of the Earth, water is important in both chemical and physical weathering processes. Water, and to a lesser but still significant extent, ice, are also responsible for a large amount of sediment transport that occurs on the surface of the earth. Deposition of transported sediment forms many types of sedimentary rocks, which make up the geologic record of Earth history.

## Water cycle

[edit]

Main article: Water cycle



Water cycle

The water cycle (known scientifically as the hydrologic cycle) is the continuous exchange of water within the hydrosphere, between the atmosphere, soil water, surface water, groundwater, and plants.

Water moves perpetually through each of these regions in the *water cycle* consisting of the following transfer processes:

- evaporation from oceans and other water bodies into the air and transpiration from land plants and animals into the air.
- precipitation, from water vapor condensing from the air and falling to the earth or ocean.
- runoff from the land usually reaching the sea.

Most water vapors found mostly in the ocean returns to it, but winds carry water vapor over land at the same rate as runoff into the sea, about 47 Tt per year while evaporation and transpiration happening in land masses also contribute another 72 Tt per year. Precipitation, at a rate of 119 Tt per year over land, has several forms: most commonly rain, snow, and hail, with some contribution from fog and dew.<sup>[106]</sup> Dew is small drops of water that are condensed when a high density of water vapor meets a cool surface. Dew usually forms in the morning when the temperature is the lowest, just before sunrise and when the temperature of the earth's surface starts to increase<sup>[107]</sup> Condensed water in the air may also refract sunlight to produce rainbows.

Water runoff often collects over watersheds flowing into rivers. Through erosion, runoff shapes the environment creating river valleys and deltas which provide rich soil and level ground for the establishment of population centers. A flood occurs when an area of land, usually low-lying, is covered with water which occurs when a river overflows its banks or a storm surge happens. On the other hand, drought is an extended period of months or years when a region notes a deficiency in its water supply. This occurs when a region receives consistently below average precipitation either due to its topography or due to its location in terms of latitude.

## Water resources

[edit]

Main article: Water resources

Water resources are natural resources of water that are potentially useful for humans<sup>[108]</sup> for example as a source of drinking water supply or irrigation water. Water occurs as both "stocks"

and "flows". Water can be stored as lakes, water vapor, groundwater or aquifers, and ice and snow. Of the total volume of global freshwater, an estimated 69 percent is stored in glaciers and permanent snow cover; 30 percent is in groundwater; and the remaining 1 percent in lakes, rivers, the atmosphere, and biota.<sup>[109]</sup> The length of time water remains in storage is highly variable: some aquifers consist of water stored over thousands of years but lake volumes may fluctuate on a seasonal basis, decreasing during dry periods and increasing during wet ones. A substantial fraction of the water supply for some regions consists of water extracted from water stored in stocks, and when withdrawals exceed recharge, stocks decrease. By some estimates, as much as 30 percent of total water used for irrigation comes from unsustainable withdrawals of groundwater, causing groundwater depletion.<sup>[110]</sup>

## Seawater and tides

[edit]

Main articles: Seawater and Tides

Seawater contains about 3.5% sodium chloride on average, plus smaller amounts of other substances. The physical properties of seawater differ from fresh water in some important respects. It freezes at a lower temperature (about −1.9 °C (28.6 °F)) and its density increases with decreasing temperature to the freezing point, instead of reaching maximum density at a temperature above freezing. The salinity of water in major seas varies from about 0.7% in the Baltic Sea to 4.0% in the Red Sea. (The Dead Sea, known for its ultra-high salinity levels of between 30 and 40%, is really a salt lake.)

Tides are the cyclic rising and falling of local sea levels caused by the tidal forces of the Moon and the Sun acting on the oceans. Tides cause changes in the depth of the marine and estuarine water bodies and produce oscillating currents known as tidal streams. The changing tide produced at a given location is the result of the changing positions of the Moon and Sun relative to the Earth coupled with the effects of Earth rotation and the local bathymetry. The strip of seashore that is submerged at high tide and exposed at low tide, the intertidal zone, is an important ecological product of ocean tides.

The Bay of Fundy at high tide and low tide

High tide

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High tide

Low tide

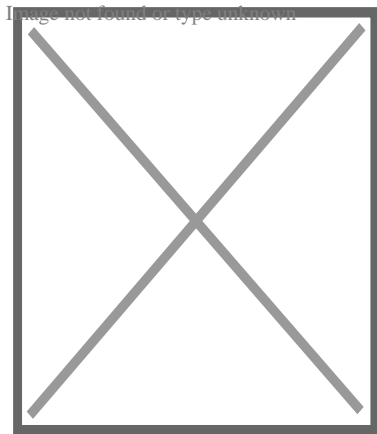
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Low tide

## Effects on life

[edit]



Overview of photosynthesis (green) and respiration (red)

From a biological standpoint, water has many distinct properties that are critical for the proliferation of life. It carries out this role by allowing organic compounds to react in ways that ultimately allow replication. All known forms of life depend on water. Water is vital both as a solvent in which many of the body's solutes dissolve and as an essential part of many metabolic processes within the body. Metabolism is the sum total of anabolism and catabolism. In anabolism, water is removed from molecules (through energy requiring enzymatic chemical reactions) to grow larger molecules (e.g., starches, triglycerides, and proteins for storage of fuels and information). In catabolism, water is used to break bonds to generate smaller molecules (e.g., glucose, fatty acids, and amino acids to be used for fuels for energy use or other purposes). Without water, these particular metabolic processes could not exist.

Water is fundamental to both photosynthesis and respiration. Photosynthetic cells use the sun's energy to split off water's hydrogen from oxygen.<sup>[111]</sup> In the presence of sunlight, hydrogen is combined with CO<sub>2</sub> (absorbed from air or water) to form glucose and release oxygen.<sup>[112]</sup> All living cells use such fuels and oxidize the hydrogen and carbon to capture the sun's energy and reform water and CO<sub>2</sub> in the process (cellular respiration).

Water is also central to acid-base neutrality and enzyme function. An acid, a hydrogen ion ( $H^+$ , that is, a proton) donor, can be neutralized by a base, a proton acceptor such as a hydroxide ion ( $OH^-$ ) to form water. Water is considered to be neutral, with a pH (the negative log of the hydrogen ion concentration) of 7 in an ideal state. Acids have pH values less than 7 while bases have values greater than 7.

## Aquatic life forms

[edit]

Further information: Hydrobiology, Marine life, and Aquatic plant

Earth's surface waters are filled with life. The earliest life forms appeared in water; nearly all fish live exclusively in water, and there are many types of marine mammals, such as dolphins and whales. Some kinds of animals, such as amphibians, spend portions of their lives in water and portions on land. Plants such as kelp and algae grow in the water and are the basis for some underwater ecosystems. Plankton is generally the foundation of the ocean food chain.

Aquatic vertebrates must obtain oxygen to survive, and they do so in various ways. Fish have gills instead of lungs, although some species of fish, such as the lungfish, have both. Marine mammals, such as dolphins, whales, otters, and seals need to surface periodically to breathe air. Some amphibians are able to absorb oxygen through their skin. Invertebrates exhibit a wide range of modifications to survive in poorly oxygenated waters including breathing tubes (see insect and mollusc siphons) and gills (*Carcinus*). However, as invertebrate life evolved in an aquatic habitat most have little or no specialization for respiration in water.

Some of the biodiversity of a coral reef

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Some of the biodiversity of a coral reef

Some marine diatoms – a key phytoplankton group

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Some marine diatoms – a  
key phytoplankton group

Squat lobster and Alvinocarididae shrimp at the Von Damm hydrothermal field survive by altered wa

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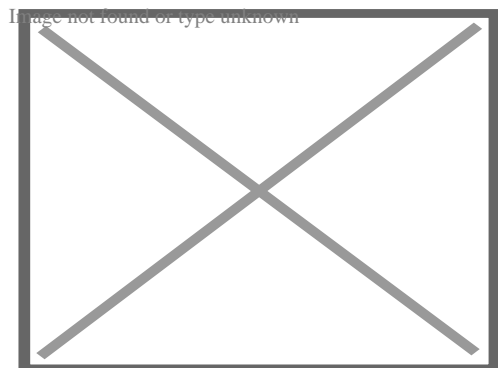
Squat lobster and  
Alvinocarididae shrimp at the  
Von Damm hydrothermal  
field survive by altered water  
chemistry.

## Effects on human civilization

[edit]



**This section needs additional citations for verification.** Please help improve this article by adding citations to reliable sources in this section. Unsourced material may be challenged and removed. *(May 2018) (Learn how and when to remove this message)*

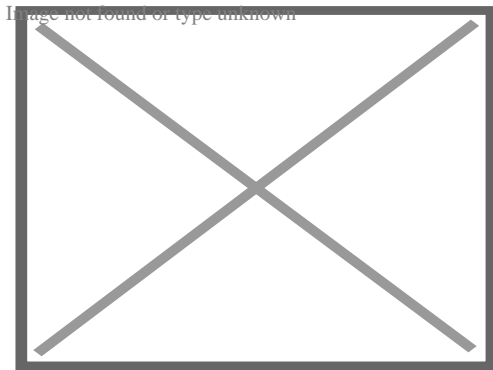


## Water fountain

Civilization has historically flourished around rivers and major waterways; Mesopotamia, one of the so-called cradles of civilization, was situated between the major rivers Tigris and Euphrates; the ancient society of the Egyptians depended entirely upon the Nile. The early Indus Valley civilization (c. 3300 BCE – c. 1300 BCE) developed along the Indus River and tributaries that flowed out of the Himalayas. Rome was also founded on the banks of the Italian river Tiber. Large metropolises like Rotterdam, London, Montreal, Paris, New York City, Buenos Aires, Shanghai, Tokyo, Chicago, and Hong Kong owe their success in part to their easy accessibility via water and the resultant expansion of trade. Islands with safe water ports, like Singapore, have flourished for the same reason. In places such as North Africa and the Middle East, where water is more scarce, access to clean drinking water was and is a major factor in human development.

## Health and pollution

[edit]



An environmental science program – a student from Iowa State University sampling water

Water fit for human consumption is called drinking water or potable water. Water that is not potable may be made potable by filtration or distillation, or by a range of other methods. More than 660 million people do not have access to safe drinking water.<sup>[113][114]</sup>

Water that is not fit for drinking but is not harmful to humans when used for swimming or bathing is called by various names other than potable or drinking water, and is sometimes called safe water, or "safe for bathing". Chlorine is a skin and mucous membrane irritant that is used to make water safe for bathing or drinking. Its use is highly technical and is usually monitored by government regulations (typically 1 part per million (ppm) for drinking water, and 1–2 ppm of chlorine not yet reacted with impurities for bathing water). Water for bathing may be maintained in satisfactory microbiological condition using chemical disinfectants such as chlorine or ozone or by the use of ultraviolet light.

Water reclamation is the process of converting wastewater (most commonly sewage, also called municipal wastewater) into water that can be reused for other purposes. There are 2.3 billion people who reside in nations with water scarcities, which means that each individual receives less than 1,700 cubic metres (60,000 cu ft) of water annually. 380 billion cubic metres ( $13 \times 10^{12}$  cu ft)

of municipal wastewater are produced globally each year.[<sup>115</sup>][<sup>116</sup>][<sup>117</sup>]

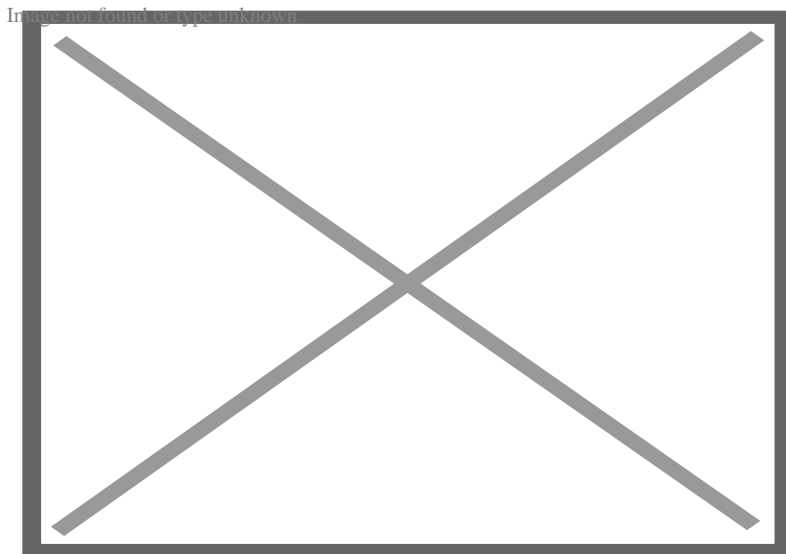
Freshwater is a renewable resource, recirculated by the natural hydrologic cycle, but pressures over access to it result from the naturally uneven distribution in space and time, growing economic demands by agriculture and industry, and rising populations. Currently, nearly a billion people around the world lack access to safe, affordable water. In 2000, the United Nations established the Millennium Development Goals for water to halve by 2015 the proportion of people worldwide without access to safe water and sanitation. Progress toward that goal was uneven, and in 2015 the UN committed to the Sustainable Development Goals of achieving universal access to safe and affordable water and sanitation by 2030. Poor water quality and bad sanitation are deadly; some five million deaths a year are caused by water-related diseases. The World Health Organization estimates that safe water could prevent 1.4 million child deaths from diarrhea each year.[<sup>118</sup>]

In developing countries, 90% of all municipal wastewater still goes untreated into local rivers and streams.[<sup>119</sup>] Some 50 countries, with roughly a third of the world's population, also suffer from medium or high water scarcity and 17 of these extract more water annually than is recharged through their natural water cycles.[<sup>120</sup>] The strain not only affects surface freshwater bodies like rivers and lakes, but it also degrades groundwater resources.

## Human uses

[edit]

Further information: Water supply



Total water withdrawals for agricultural, industrial and municipal purposes per capita, measured in cubic metres (m<sup>3</sup>) per year in 2010[<sup>121</sup>]

## Agriculture

[edit]



The most substantial human use of water is for agriculture, including irrigated agriculture, which accounts for as much as 80 to 90 percent of total human water consumption.<sup>[122]</sup> In the United States, 42% of freshwater withdrawn for use is for irrigation, but the vast majority of water "consumed" (used and not returned to the environment) goes to agriculture.<sup>[123]</sup>

Access to fresh water is often taken for granted, especially in developed countries that have built sophisticated water systems for collecting, purifying, and delivering water, and removing wastewater. But growing economic, demographic, and climatic pressures are increasing concerns about water issues, leading to increasing competition for fixed water resources, giving rise to the concept of peak water.<sup>[124]</sup> As populations and economies continue to grow, consumption of water-thirsty meat expands, and new demands rise for biofuels or new water-intensive industries, new water challenges are likely.<sup>[125]</sup>

An assessment of water management in agriculture was conducted in 2007 by the International Water Management Institute in Sri Lanka to see if the world had sufficient water to provide food for its growing population.<sup>[126]</sup> It assessed the current availability of water for agriculture on a global scale and mapped out locations suffering from water scarcity. It found that a fifth of the world's people, more than 1.2 billion, live in areas of physical water scarcity, where there is not enough water to meet all demands. A further 1.6 billion people live in areas experiencing economic water scarcity, where the lack of investment in water or insufficient human capacity make it impossible for authorities to satisfy the demand for water. The report found that it would be possible to produce the food required in the future, but that continuation of today's food production and environmental trends would lead to crises in many parts of the world. To avoid a global water crisis, farmers will have to strive to increase productivity to meet growing demands for food, while industries and cities find ways to use water more efficiently.<sup>[127]</sup>

Water scarcity is also caused by production of water intensive products. For example, cotton: 1 kg of cotton—equivalent of a pair of jeans—requires 10.9 cubic metres (380 cu ft) water to produce. While cotton accounts for 2.4% of world water use, the water is consumed in regions that are already at a risk of water shortage. Significant environmental damage has been caused: for example, the diversion of water by the former Soviet Union from the Amu Darya and Syr Darya rivers to produce cotton was largely responsible for the disappearance of the Aral Sea.<sup>[128]</sup>

Water requirement per tonne of food product

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Water requirement  
per tonne of food  
product

○

Water distribution in  
subsurface drip  
irrigation  
Irrigation of field crops

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Irrigation of field  
crops

## As a scientific standard

[edit]

On 7 April 1795, the gram was defined in France to be equal to "the absolute weight of a volume of pure water equal to a cube of one-hundredth of a meter, and at the temperature of melting ice"[<sup>129</sup>] For practical purposes though, a metallic reference standard was required, one thousand times more massive, the kilogram. Work was therefore commissioned to determine precisely the mass of one liter of water. In spite of the fact that the decreed definition of the gram specified water at 0 °C (32 °F)—a highly reproducible *temperature*—the scientists chose to redefine the standard and to perform their measurements at the temperature of highest water *density*, which was measured at the time as 4 °C (39 °F).[<sup>130</sup>]

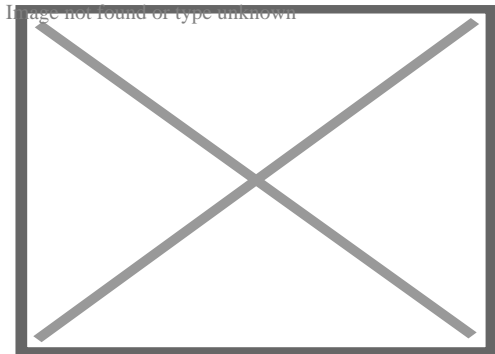
The Kelvin temperature scale of the SI system was based on the triple point of water, defined as exactly 273.16 K (0.01 °C; 32.02 °F), but as of May 2019 is based on the Boltzmann constant instead. The scale is an absolute temperature scale with the same increment as the Celsius temperature scale, which was originally defined according to the boiling point (set to 100 °C (212 °F)) and melting point (set to 0 °C (32 °F)) of water.

Natural water consists mainly of the isotopes hydrogen-1 and oxygen-16, but there is also a small quantity of heavier isotopes oxygen-18, oxygen-17, and hydrogen-2 (deuterium). The percentage of the heavier isotopes is very small, but it still affects the properties of water. Water from rivers and lakes tends to contain less heavy isotopes than seawater. Therefore, standard water is defined in the Vienna Standard Mean Ocean Water specification.

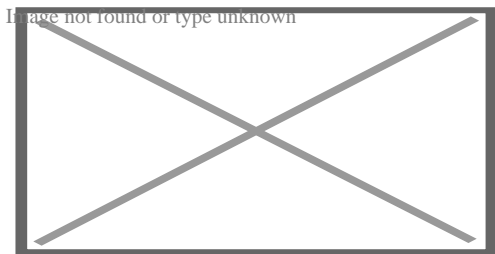
## For drinking

[edit]

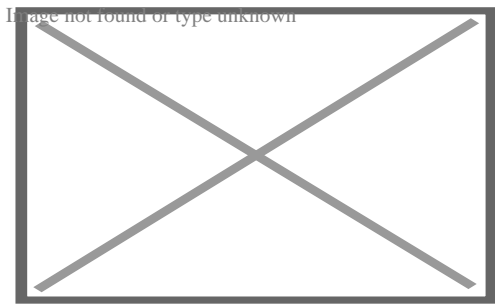
Main article: Drinking water



A young girl drinking bottled water



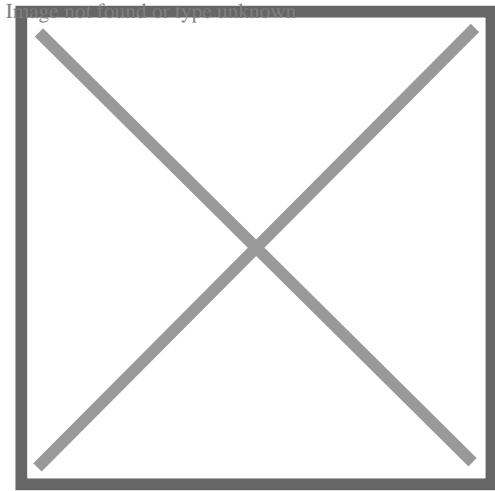
Water availability: the fraction of the population using improved water sources by country



Roadside fresh water outlet from glacier, Nubra

The human body contains from 55% to 78% water, depending on body size.<sup>[131]</sup><sup>[*user-generated source*]</sup> To function properly, the body requires between one and seven litres (0.22 and 1.54 imp gal; 0.26 and 1.85 US gal)<sup>[*citation needed*]</sup> of water per day to avoid dehydration; the precise amount depends on the level of activity, temperature, humidity, and other factors. Most of this is ingested through foods or beverages other than drinking straight water. It is not clear how much water intake is needed by healthy people, though the British Dietetic Association advises that 2.5 liters of total water daily is the minimum to maintain proper hydration, including 1.8 liters (6 to 7 glasses) obtained directly from beverages.<sup>[132]</sup> Medical literature favors a lower consumption, typically 1 liter of water for an average male, excluding extra requirements due to fluid loss from exercise or warm weather.<sup>[133]</sup>

Healthy kidneys can excrete 0.8 to 1 liter of water per hour, but stress such as exercise can reduce this amount. People can drink far more water than necessary while exercising, putting them at risk of water intoxication (hyperhydration), which can be fatal.<sup>[134][135]</sup> The popular claim that "a person should consume eight glasses of water per day" seems to have no real basis in science.<sup>[136]</sup> Studies have shown that extra water intake, especially up to 500 millilitres (18 imp fl oz; 17 US fl oz) at mealtime, was associated with weight loss.<sup>[137][138][139][140][141][142]</sup> Adequate fluid intake is helpful in preventing constipation.<sup>[143]</sup>



Hazard symbol for non-potable water

An original recommendation for water intake in 1945 by the Food and Nutrition Board of the U.S. National Research Council read: "An ordinary standard for diverse persons is 1 milliliter for each calorie of food. Most of this quantity is contained in prepared foods."<sup>[144]</sup> The latest dietary reference intake report by the U.S. National Research Council in general recommended, based on the median total water intake from US survey data (including food sources): 3.7 litres (0.81 imp gal; 0.98 US gal) for men and 2.7 litres (0.59 imp gal; 0.71 US gal) of water total for women, noting that water contained in food provided approximately 19% of total water intake in the survey.<sup>[145]</sup>

Specifically, pregnant and breastfeeding women need additional fluids to stay hydrated. The US Institute of Medicine recommends that, on average, men consume 3 litres (0.66 imp gal; 0.79 US gal) and women 2.2 litres (0.48 imp gal; 0.58 US gal); pregnant women should increase intake to 2.4 litres (0.53 imp gal; 0.63 US gal) and breastfeeding women should get 3 liters (12 cups), since an especially large amount of fluid is lost during nursing.<sup>[146]</sup> Also noted is that normally, about 20% of water intake comes from food, while the rest comes from drinking water and beverages (caffeinated included). Water is excreted from the body in multiple forms; through urine and feces, through sweating, and by exhalation of water vapor in the breath. With physical exertion and heat exposure, water loss will increase and daily fluid needs may increase as well.

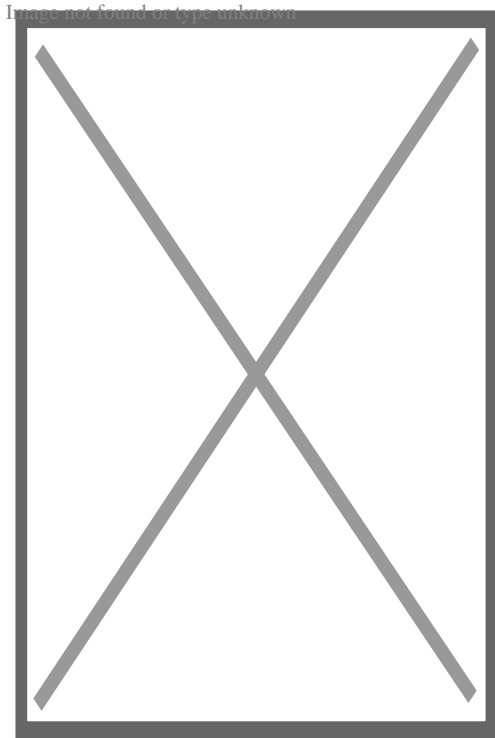
Humans require water with few impurities. Common impurities include metal salts and oxides, including copper, iron, calcium and lead,<sup>[147]</sup><sup>[full citation needed]</sup> and harmful bacteria, such as *Vibrio*. Some solutes are acceptable and even desirable for taste enhancement and to provide needed electrolytes.<sup>[148]</sup>

The single largest (by volume) freshwater resource suitable for drinking is Lake Baikal in Siberia[<sup>149</sup>]

## Washing

[edit]

This section is an excerpt from Washing.[edit]



A woman washes her hands with soap and water.

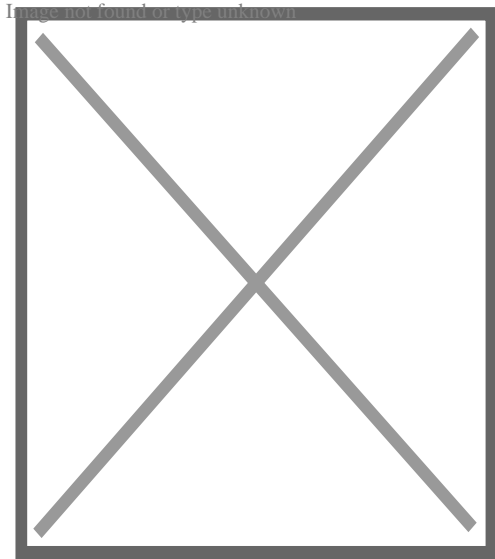
Washing is a method of cleaning, usually with water and soap or detergent. Regularly washing and then rinsing both body and clothing is an essential part of good hygiene and health.[<sup>150</sup>][<sup>151</sup>][<sup>152</sup>]

Often people use soaps and detergents to assist in the emulsification of oils and dirt particles so they can be washed away. The soap can be applied directly, or with the aid of a washcloth or assisted with sponges or similar cleaning tools.

In social contexts, washing refers to the act of bathing, or washing different parts of the body, such as hands, hair, or faces. Excessive washing may damage the hair, causing dandruff, or cause rough skin/skin lesions.[<sup>153</sup>][<sup>154</sup>] Some washing of the body is done ritually in religions like Christianity and Judaism, as an act of purification.

Washing can also refer to washing objects. For example, washing of clothing or other cloth items, like bedsheets, or washing dishes or cookwear. Keeping objects clean, especially if they interact with food or the skin, can help with sanitation. Other kinds of washing focus on maintaining

cleanliness and durability of objects that get dirty, such washing one's car, by lathering the exterior with car soap, or washing tools used in a dirty process.



A private home washing machine

## Transportation

[edit]

These paragraphs are an excerpt from Maritime transport.[edit]

Maritime transport (or ocean transport) or more generally waterborne transport, is the transport of people (passengers) or goods (cargo) via waterways. Freight transport by watercraft has been widely used throughout recorded history, as it provides a higher-capacity mode of transportation for passengers and cargo than land transport, the latter typically being more costly per unit payload due to it being affected by terrain conditions and road/rail infrastructures. The advent of aviation during the 20th century has diminished the importance of sea travel for passengers, though it is still popular for short trips and pleasure cruises. Transport by watercraft is much cheaper than transport by aircraft or land vehicles (both road and rail),<sup>[155]</sup> but is significantly slower for longer journeys and heavily dependent on adequate port facilities. Maritime transport accounts for roughly 80% of international trade, according to UNCTAD in 2020.

Maritime transport can be realized over any distance as long as there are connecting bodies of water that are navigable to boats, ships or barges such as oceans, lakes, rivers and canals. Shipping may be for commerce, recreation, or military purposes, and is an important aspect of logistics in human societies since early shipbuilding and river engineering were developed, leading to canal ages in various civilizations. While extensive inland shipping is less critical today, the major waterways of the world including many canals are still very important and are integral parts of worldwide economies. Particularly, especially any material can be moved by water; however, water transport becomes impractical when material delivery is time-critical such as various types of perishable produce. Still, water transport is highly cost effective with regular schedulable cargoes,

such as trans-oceanic shipping of consumer products – and especially for heavy loads or bulk cargos, such as coal, coke, ores or grains. Arguably, the Industrial Revolution had its first impacts where cheap water transport by canal, navigations, or shipping by all types of watercraft on natural waterways supported cost-effective bulk transport.

Containerization revolutionized maritime transport starting in the 1970s. "General cargo" includes goods packaged in boxes, cases, pallets, and barrels. When a cargo is carried in more than one mode, it is intermodal or co-modal.

## Chemical uses

[edit]

Water is widely used in chemical reactions as a solvent or reactant and less commonly as a solute or catalyst. In inorganic reactions, water is a common solvent, dissolving many ionic compounds, as well as other polar compounds such as ammonia and compounds closely related to water. In organic reactions, it is not usually used as a reaction solvent, because it does not dissolve the reactants well and is amphoteric (acidic *and* basic) and nucleophilic. Nevertheless, these properties are sometimes desirable. Also, acceleration of Diels-Alder reactions by water has been observed. Supercritical water has recently been a topic of research. Oxygen-saturated supercritical water combusts organic pollutants efficiently.

## Heat exchange

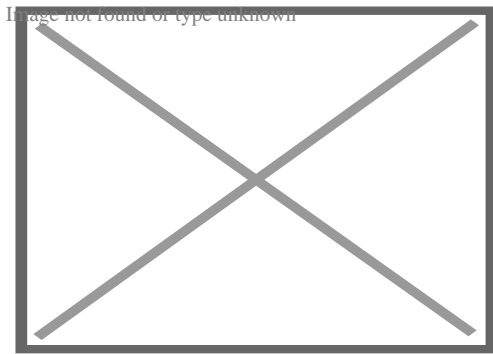
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Water and steam are a common fluid used for heat exchange, due to its availability and high heat capacity, both for cooling and heating. Cool water may even be naturally available from a lake or the sea. It is especially effective to transport heat through vaporization and condensation of water because of its large latent heat of vaporization. A disadvantage is that metals commonly found in industries such as steel and copper are oxidized faster by untreated water and steam. In almost all thermal power stations, water is used as the working fluid (used in a closed-loop between boiler, steam turbine, and condenser), and the coolant (used to exchange the waste heat to a water body or carry it away by evaporation in a cooling tower). In the United States, cooling power plants is the largest use of water.<sup>[156]</sup>

In the nuclear power industry, water can also be used as a neutron moderator. In most nuclear reactors, water is both a coolant and a moderator. This provides something of a passive safety measure, as removing the water from the reactor also slows the nuclear reaction down. However other methods are favored for stopping a reaction and it is preferred to keep the nuclear core covered with water so as to ensure adequate cooling.

## Fire considerations

[edit]



Water is used for fighting wildfires.

Water has a high heat of vaporization and is relatively inert, which makes it a good fire extinguishing fluid. The evaporation of water carries heat away from the fire. It is dangerous to use water on fires involving oils and organic solvents because many organic materials float on water and the water tends to spread the burning liquid.

Use of water in fire fighting should also take into account the hazards of a steam explosion, which may occur when water is used on very hot fires in confined spaces, and of a hydrogen explosion, when substances which react with water, such as certain metals or hot carbon such as coal, charcoal, or coke graphite, decompose the water, producing water gas.

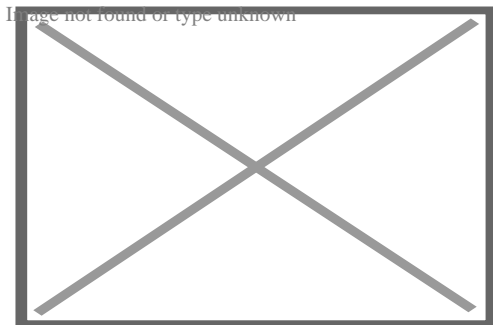
The power of such explosions was seen in the Chernobyl disaster, although the water involved in this case did not come from fire-fighting but from the reactor's own water cooling system. A steam explosion occurred when the extreme overheating of the core caused water to flash into steam. A hydrogen explosion may have occurred as a result of a reaction between steam and hot zirconium.

Some metallic oxides, most notably those of alkali metals and alkaline earth metals, produce so much heat in reaction with water that a fire hazard can develop. The alkaline earth oxide quicklime, also known as calcium oxide, is a mass-produced substance that is often transported in paper bags. If these are soaked through, they may ignite as their contents react with water.<sup>[157]</sup>

## Recreation

[edit]

Main article: Water sport (recreation)





## San Andrés island, Colombia

Humans use water for many recreational purposes, as well as for exercising and for sports. Some of these include swimming, waterskiing, boating, surfing and diving. In addition, some sports, like ice hockey and ice skating, are played on ice. Lakesides, beaches and water parks are popular places for people to go to relax and enjoy recreation. Many find the sound and appearance of flowing water to be calming, and fountains and other flowing water structures are popular decorations. Some keep fish and other flora and fauna inside aquariums or ponds for show, fun, and companionship. Humans also use water for snow sports such as skiing, sledding, snowmobiling or snowboarding, which require the water to be at a low temperature either as ice or crystallized into snow.

### **Water industry**

[edit]

The water industry provides drinking water and wastewater services (including sewage treatment) to households and industry. Water supply facilities include water wells, cisterns for rainwater harvesting, water supply networks, and water purification facilities, water tanks, water towers, water pipes including old aqueducts. Atmospheric water generators are in development.

Drinking water is often collected at springs, extracted from artificial borings (wells) in the ground, or pumped from lakes and rivers. Building more wells in adequate places is thus a possible way to produce more water, assuming the aquifers can supply an adequate flow. Other water sources include rainwater collection. Water may require purification for human consumption. This may involve the removal of undissolved substances, dissolved substances and harmful microbes. Popular methods are filtering with sand which only removes undissolved material, while chlorination and boiling kill harmful microbes. Distillation does all three functions. More advanced techniques exist, such as reverse osmosis. Desalination of abundant seawater is a more expensive solution used in coastal arid climates.

The distribution of drinking water is done through municipal water systems, tanker delivery or as bottled water. Governments in many countries have programs to distribute water to the needy at no charge.

Reducing usage by using drinking (potable) water only for human consumption is another option. In some cities such as Hong Kong, seawater is extensively used for flushing toilets citywide to conserve freshwater resources.

Polluting water may be the biggest single misuse of water; to the extent that a pollutant limits other uses of the water, it becomes a waste of the resource, regardless of benefits to the polluter. Like other types of pollution, this does not enter standard accounting of market costs, being conceived as externalities for which the market cannot account. Thus other people pay the price of water pollution, while the private firms' profits are not redistributed to the local population, victims of this pollution. Pharmaceuticals consumed by humans often end up in the waterways and can have detrimental effects on aquatic life if they bioaccumulate and if they are not biodegradable.

Municipal and industrial wastewater are typically treated at wastewater treatment plants. Mitigation of polluted surface runoff is addressed through a variety of prevention and treatment techniques.

A water-carrier in India, 1882. In many places where running water is not available, water has to be

○

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A water-carrier in India,  
1882. In many places where  
running water is not  
available, water has to be  
transported by people.  
A manual water pump in China

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A manual water pump in  
China  
Water purification facility

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Water purification facility

## Reverse osmosis (RO) desalination plant in Barcelona, Spain

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Reverse osmosis (RO)  
desalination plant in  
Barcelona, Spain

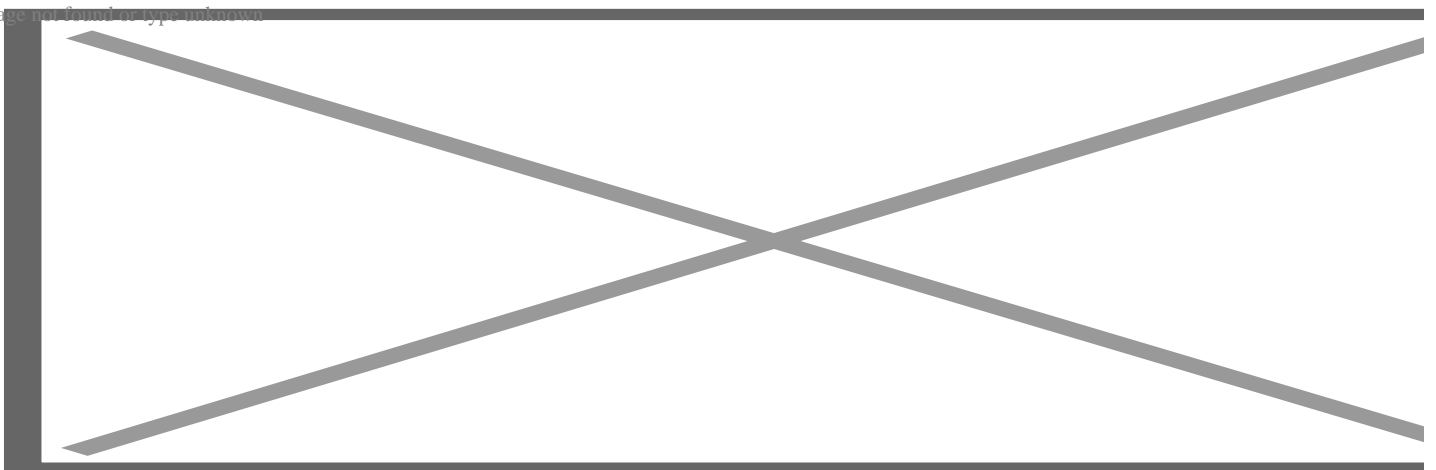
## Industrial applications

[edit]

Many industrial processes rely on reactions using chemicals dissolved in water, suspension of solids in water slurries or using water to dissolve and extract substances, or to wash products or process equipment. Processes such as mining, chemical pulping, pulp bleaching, paper manufacturing, textile production, dyeing, printing, and cooling of power plants use large amounts of water, requiring a dedicated water source, and often cause significant water pollution.

Water is used in power generation. Hydroelectricity is electricity obtained from hydropower. Hydroelectric power comes from water driving a water turbine connected to a generator. Hydroelectricity is a low-cost, non-polluting, renewable energy source. The energy is supplied by the motion of water. Typically a dam is constructed on a river, creating an artificial lake behind it. Water flowing out of the lake is forced through turbines that turn generators.

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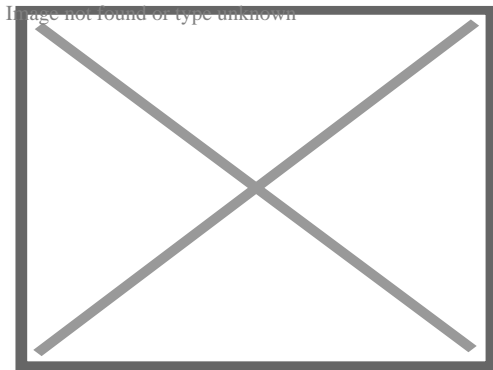
Three Gorges Dam is the largest hydro-electric power station in the world.

Pressurized water is used in water blasting and water jet cutters. High pressure water guns are used for precise cutting. It works very well, is relatively safe, and is not harmful to the environment. It is also used in the cooling of machinery to prevent overheating, or prevent saw blades from overheating.

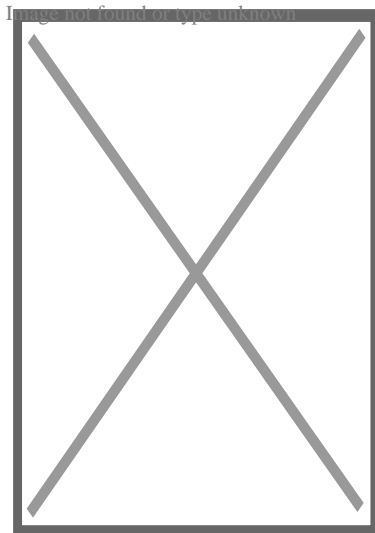
Water is also used in many industrial processes and machines, such as the steam turbine and heat exchanger, in addition to its use as a chemical solvent. Discharge of untreated water from industrial uses is pollution. Pollution includes discharged solutes (chemical pollution) and discharged coolant water (thermal pollution). Industry requires pure water for many applications and uses a variety of purification techniques both in water supply and discharge.

## Food processing

[edit]



Water can be used to cook foods such as noodles.



Sterile water for injection

Boiling, steaming, and simmering are popular cooking methods that often require immersing food in water or its gaseous state, steam.<sup>[158]</sup> Water is also used for dishwashing. Water also plays many critical roles within the field of food science.

Solutes such as salts and sugars found in water affect the physical properties of water. The boiling and freezing points of water are affected by solutes, as well as air pressure, which is in turn affected by altitude. Water boils at lower temperatures with the lower air pressure that occurs at higher elevations. One mole of sucrose (sugar) per kilogram of water raises the boiling point of water by 0.51 °C (0.918 °F), and one mole of salt per kg raises the boiling point by 1.02 °C (1.836 °F); similarly, increasing the number of dissolved particles lowers water's freezing point.[<sup>159</sup>]

Solutes in water also affect water activity that affects many chemical reactions and the growth of microbes in food.[<sup>160</sup>] Water activity can be described as a ratio of the vapor pressure of water in a solution to the vapor pressure of pure water.[<sup>159</sup>] Solutes in water lower water activity—this is important to know because most bacterial growth ceases at low levels of water activity[<sup>160</sup>] Not only does microbial growth affect the safety of food, but also the preservation and shelf life of food.

Water hardness is also a critical factor in food processing and may be altered or treated by using a chemical ion exchange system. It can dramatically affect the quality of a product, as well as playing a role in sanitation. Water hardness is classified based on concentration of calcium carbonate the water contains. Water is classified as soft if it contains less than 100 mg/L (UK)[<sup>161</sup>] or less than 60 mg/L (US).[<sup>162</sup>]

According to a report published by the Water Footprint organization in 2010, a single kilogram of beef requires 15 thousand litres ( $3.3 \times 10^3$  imp gal;  $4.0 \times 10^3$  US gal) of water; however, the authors also make clear that this is a global average and circumstantial factors determine the amount of water used in beef production.[<sup>163</sup>]

## Medical use

[edit]

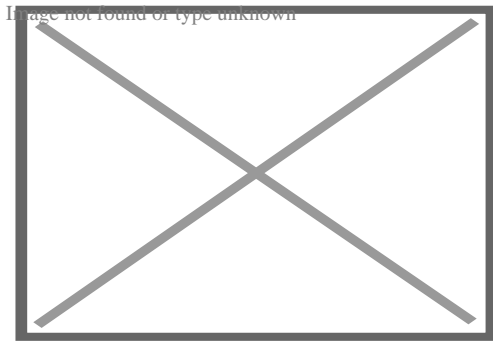
Water for injection is on the World Health Organization's list of essential medicines[<sup>164</sup>]

## Distribution in nature

[edit]

## In the universe

[edit]



Band 5 ALMA receiver is an instrument specifically designed to detect water in the universe.<sup>[165]</sup>

Much of the universe's water is produced as a byproduct of star formation. The formation of stars is accompanied by a strong outward wind of gas and dust. When this outflow of material eventually impacts the surrounding gas, the shock waves that are created compress and heat the gas. The water observed is quickly produced in this warm dense gas.<sup>[166]</sup>

On 22 July 2011, a report described the discovery of a gigantic cloud of water vapor containing "140 trillion times more water than all of Earth's oceans combined" around a quasar located 12 billion light years from Earth. According to the researchers, the "discovery shows that water has been prevalent in the universe for nearly its entire existence".<sup>[167]</sup><sup>[168]</sup>

Water has been detected in interstellar clouds within the Milky Way.<sup>[169]</sup> Water probably exists in abundance in other galaxies, too, because its components, hydrogen, and oxygen, are among the most abundant elements in the universe. Based on models of the formation and evolution of the Solar System and that of other star systems, most other planetary systems are likely to have similar ingredients.

## Water vapor

[edit]

Water is present as vapor in:

- Atmosphere of the Sun: in detectable trace amounts<sup>[170]</sup>
- Atmosphere of Mercury: 3.4%, and large amounts of water in Mercury's exosphere<sup>[171]</sup>
- Atmosphere of Venus: 0.002%<sup>[172]</sup>
- Earth's atmosphere: ~0.40% over full atmosphere, typically 1–4% at surface
- Atmosphere of the Moon: in trace amounts<sup>[173]</sup>
- Atmosphere of Mars: 0.03%<sup>[174]</sup>
- Atmosphere of Ceres<sup>[175]</sup>
- Atmosphere of Jupiter: 0.0004%<sup>[176]</sup> – in ices only; and that of its moon Europa<sup>[177]</sup>
- Atmosphere of Saturn – in ices only; Enceladus: 91%<sup>[178]</sup> and Dione (exosphere)<sup>[citation needed]</sup>
- Atmosphere of Uranus – in trace amounts below 50 bar
- Atmosphere of Neptune – found in the deeper layers<sup>[179]</sup>

- Extrasolar planet atmospheres: including those of HD 189733 b,<sup>[180]</sup> and HD 209458 b,<sup>[181]</sup> Tau Boötis b,<sup>[182]</sup> HAT-P-11b,<sup>[183]</sup><sup>[184]</sup> XO-1b, WASP-12b, WASP-17b, and WASP-19b.<sup>[185]</sup>
- Stellar atmospheres: not limited to cooler stars and even detected in giant hot stars such as Betelgeuse, Mu Cephei, Antares and Arcturus.<sup>[184]</sup><sup>[186]</sup>
- Circumstellar disks: including those of more than half of T Tauri stars such as AA Tauri<sup>[184]</sup> as well as TW Hydrae,<sup>[187]</sup><sup>[188]</sup> IRC +10216<sup>[189]</sup> and APM 08279+5255,<sup>[167]</sup><sup>[168]</sup> VY Canis Majoris and S Persei.<sup>[186]</sup>

## Liquid water

[edit]

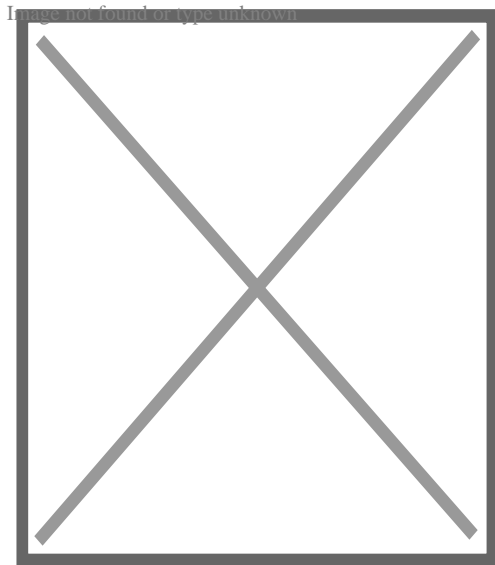
Further information: List of largest lakes and seas in the Solar System and Extraterrestrial liquid water

Liquid water is present on Earth, covering 71% of its surface.<sup>[23]</sup> Liquid water is also occasionally present in small amounts on Mars.<sup>[190]</sup> Scientists believe liquid water is present in the Saturnian moons of Enceladus, as a 10-kilometre thick ocean approximately 30–40 kilometers below Enceladus' south polar surface,<sup>[191]</sup><sup>[192]</sup> and Titan, as a subsurface layer, possibly mixed with ammonia.<sup>[193]</sup> Jupiter's moon Europa has surface characteristics which suggest a subsurface liquid water ocean.<sup>[194]</sup> Liquid water may also exist on Jupiter's moon Ganymede as a layer sandwiched between high pressure ice and rock.<sup>[195]</sup>

## Water ice

[edit]

Water is present as ice on:



Water ice in the Korolev crater on Mars

- Mars: under the regolith and at the poles.<sup>[196][197]</sup>
- Earth–Moon system: mainly as ice sheets on Earth and in Lunar craters and volcanic rocks<sup>[198]</sup> NASA reported the detection of water molecules by NASA's Moon Mineralogy Mapper aboard the Indian Space Research Organization's Chandrayaan-1 spacecraft in September 2009.<sup>[199]</sup>
- Ceres<sup>[200][201][202]</sup>
- Jupiter's moons: Europa's surface and also that of Ganymede<sup>[203]</sup> and Callisto<sup>[204][205]</sup>
- Saturn: in the planet's ring system<sup>[206]</sup> and on the surface and mantle of Titan<sup>[207]</sup> and Enceladus<sup>[208]</sup>
- Pluto–Charon system<sup>[206]</sup>
- Comets<sup>[209][210]</sup> and other related Kuiper belt and Oort cloud objects<sup>[211]</sup>

And is also likely present on:

- Mercury's poles<sup>[212]</sup>
- Tethys<sup>[213]</sup>

## Exotic forms

[edit]

Water and other volatiles probably comprise much of the internal structures of Uranus and Neptune and the water in the deeper layers may be in the form of ionic water in which the molecules break down into a soup of hydrogen and oxygen ions, and deeper still as superionic water in which the oxygen crystallizes, but the hydrogen ions float about freely within the oxygen lattice.<sup>[214]</sup>

## Water and planetary habitability



[edit]

Further information: Water distribution on Earth and Planetary habitability

The existence of liquid water, and to a lesser extent its gaseous and solid forms, on Earth are vital to the existence of life on Earth as we know it. The Earth is located in the habitable zone of the Solar System; if it were slightly closer to or farther from the Sun (about 5%, or about 8 million kilometers), the conditions which allow the three forms to be present simultaneously would be far less likely to exist.<sup>[215]</sup><sup>[216]</sup>

Earth's gravity allows it to hold an atmosphere. Water vapor and carbon dioxide in the atmosphere provide a temperature buffer (greenhouse effect) which helps maintain a relatively steady surface temperature. If Earth were smaller, a thinner atmosphere would allow temperature extremes, thus preventing the accumulation of water except in polar ice caps (as on Mars).<sup>[citation needed]</sup>

The surface temperature of Earth has been relatively constant through geologic time despite varying levels of incoming solar radiation (insolation), indicating that a dynamic process governs Earth's temperature via a combination of greenhouse gases and surface or atmospheric albedo. This proposal is known as the Gaia hypothesis.<sup>[citation needed]</sup>

The state of water on a planet depends on ambient pressure, which is determined by the planet's gravity. If a planet is sufficiently massive, the water on it may be solid even at high temperatures, because of the high pressure caused by gravity, as it was observed on exoplanets Gliese 436 b<sup>[217]</sup> and GJ 1214 b.<sup>[218]</sup>

## Law, politics, and crisis

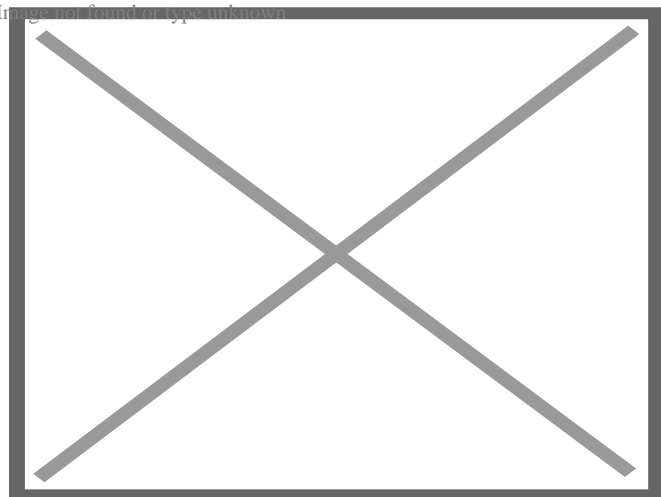
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Main articles: Water law, Water right, and Water scarcity



**This section needs to be updated.** Please help update this article to reflect recent events or newly available information. (*June 2022*)

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An estimate of the proportion of people in developing countries with access to potable water 1970–2000

Water politics is politics affected by water and water resources. Water, particularly fresh water, is a strategic resource across the world and an important element in many political conflicts. It causes health impacts and damage to biodiversity.

Access to safe drinking water has improved over the last decades in almost every part of the world, but approximately one billion people still lack access to safe water and over 2.5 billion lack access to adequate sanitation.<sup>[219]</sup> However, some observers have estimated that by 2025 more than half of the world population will be facing water-based vulnerability.<sup>[220]</sup> A report, issued in November 2009, suggests that by 2030, in some developing regions of the world, water demand will exceed supply by 50%.<sup>[221]</sup>

1.6 billion people have gained access to a safe water source since 1990.<sup>[222]</sup> The proportion of people in developing countries with access to safe water is calculated to have improved from 30% in 1970<sup>[223]</sup> to 71% in 1990, 79% in 2000, and 84% in 2004.<sup>[219]</sup>

A 2006 United Nations report stated that "there is enough water for everyone", but that access to it is hampered by mismanagement and corruption.<sup>[224]</sup> In addition, global initiatives to improve the efficiency of aid delivery, such as the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness, have not been taken up by water sector donors as effectively as they have in education and health, potentially leaving multiple donors working on overlapping projects and recipient governments without empowerment to act.<sup>[225]</sup>

The authors of the 2007 Comprehensive Assessment of Water Management in Agriculture cited poor governance as one reason for some forms of water scarcity. Water governance is the set of formal and informal processes through which decisions related to water management are made. Good water governance is primarily about knowing what processes work best in a particular physical and socioeconomic context. Mistakes have sometimes been made by trying to apply 'blueprints' that work in the developed world to developing world locations and contexts. The Mekong river is one example; a review by the International Water Management Institute of policies in six countries that rely on the Mekong river for water found that thorough and transparent cost-benefit analyses and environmental impact assessments were rarely undertaken. They also discovered that Cambodia's draft water law was much more complex than it needed to be.<sup>[226]</sup>

In 2004, the UK charity WaterAid reported that a child dies every 15 seconds from easily preventable water-related diseases, which are often tied to a lack of adequate sanitation.<sup>[227][228]</sup>

Since 2003, the UN World Water Development Report, produced by the UNESCO World Water Assessment Programme, has provided decision-makers with tools for developing sustainable water policies.<sup>[229]</sup> The 2023 report states that two billion people (26% of the population) do not have access to drinking water and 3.6 billion (46%) lack access to safely managed sanitation.<sup>[230]</sup> People in urban areas (2.4 billion) will face water scarcity by 2050.<sup>[229]</sup> Water scarcity has been described as endemic, due to overconsumption and pollution.<sup>[231]</sup> The report states that 10% of the world's population lives in countries with high or critical water stress. Yet over the past 40 years, water consumption has increased by around 1% per year, and is expected to grow at the same rate until 2050. Since 2000, flooding in the tropics has quadrupled, while flooding in northern mid-latitudes has increased by a factor of 2.5.<sup>[232]</sup> The cost of these floods between 2000 and 2019 was 100,000 deaths and \$650 million.<sup>[229]</sup>

Organizations concerned with water protection include the International Water Association (IWA), WaterAid, Water 1st, and the American Water Resources Association. The International Water Management Institute undertakes projects with the aim of using effective water management to reduce poverty. Water related conventions are United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and Ramsar Convention. World Day for Water takes place on 22 March<sup>[233]</sup> and World Oceans Day on 8 June.<sup>[234]</sup>

## In culture

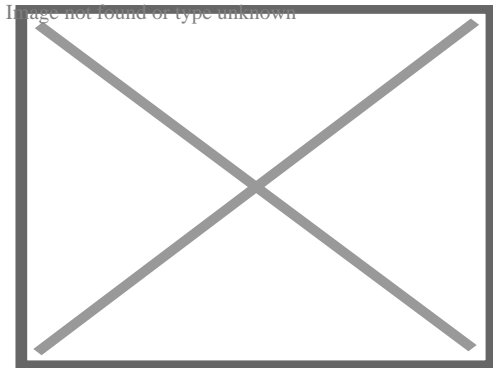
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## Religion

[edit]

Main article: Water and religion

See also: Sacred waters



People come to Inda Abba Hadera spring (Inda Sillasie, Ethiopia) to wash in holy water.

Water is considered a purifier in most religions. Faiths that incorporate ritual washing (ablution) include Christianity,<sup>[235]</sup> Hinduism, Islam, Judaism, the Rastafari movement, Shinto, Taoism, and Wicca. Immersion (or aspersion or affusion) of a person in water is a central Sacrament of Christianity (where it is called baptism); it is also a part of the practice of other religions, including Islam (*Ghusl*), Judaism (*mikvah*) and Sikhism (*Amrit Sanskar*). In addition, a ritual bath in pure water is performed for the dead in many religions including Islam and Judaism. In Islam, the five daily prayers can be done in most cases after washing certain parts of the body using clean water (*wudu*), unless water is unavailable (see *Tayammum*). In Shinto, water is used in almost all rituals to cleanse a person or an area (e.g., in the ritual of *misogi*).

In Christianity, holy water is water that has been sanctified by a priest for the purpose of baptism, the blessing of persons, places, and objects, or as a means of repelling evil.<sup>[236]</sup><sup>[237]</sup>

In Zoroastrianism, water (*?b*) is respected as the source of life.<sup>[238]</sup>

## Philosophy

[edit]

Icosahedron as a part of Spinoza monument in Amsterdam.

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Icosahedron as a part of Spinoza monument in Amsterdam

The Ancient Greek philosopher Empedocles saw water as one of the four classical elements (along with fire, earth, and air), and regarded it as an ylem, or basic substance of the universe. Thales, whom Aristotle portrayed as an astronomer and an engineer, theorized that the earth, which is denser than water, emerged from the water. Thales, a monist, believed further that all things are made from water. Plato believed that the shape of water is an icosahedron – flowing easily compared to the cube-shaped earth.<sup>[239]</sup>

The theory of the four bodily humors associated water with phlegm, as being cold and moist. The classical element of water was also one of the five elements in traditional Chinese philosophy (along with earth, fire, wood, and metal).

Some traditional and popular Asian philosophical systems take water as a role-model. James Legge's 1891 translation of the *Dao De Jing* states, "The highest excellence is like (that of) water. The excellence of water appears in its benefiting all things, and in its occupying, without striving (to the contrary), the low place which all men dislike. Hence (its way) is near to (that of) the Tao" and "There is nothing in the world more soft and weak than water, and yet for attacking things that are firm and strong there is nothing that can take precedence of it—for there is nothing (so effectual) for which it can be changed."<sup>[240]</sup> *Guanzi* in the "Shui di" ?? chapter further elaborates on the symbolism of water, proclaiming that "man is water" and attributing natural qualities of the people of different Chinese regions to the character of local water resources.<sup>[241]</sup>

## Folklore

[edit]

"Living water" features in Germanic and Slavic folktales as a means of bringing the dead back to life. Note the Grimm fairy-tale ("The Water of Life") and the Russian dichotomy of living[ru] and dead water [ru]. The Fountain of Youth represents a related concept of magical waters allegedly preventing aging.

## Art and activism

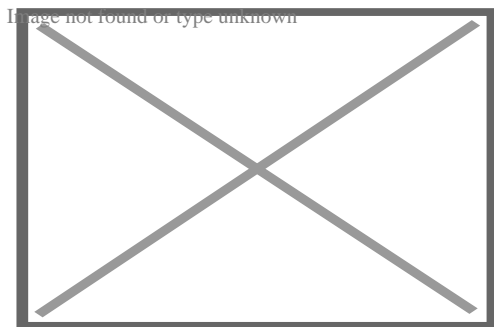
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In the significant modernist novel *Ulysses* (1922) by Irish writer James Joyce, the chapter "Ithaca" takes the form of a catechism of 309 questions and answers, one of which is known as the "water hymn".<sup>[242]</sup>: 91 According to Richard E. Madtes, the hymn is not merely a "monotonous string of facts", rather, its phrases, like their subject, "ebb and flow, heave and swell, gather and break, until they subside into the calm quiescence of the concluding 'pestilential fens, faded flowerwater, stagnant pools in the waning moon.'"<sup>[242]</sup>: 79 The hymn is considered one of the most remarkable passages in Ithaca, and according to literary critic Hugh Kenner, achieves "the improbable feat of raising to poetry all the clutter of footling information that has accumulated in schoolbooks."<sup>[242]</sup>: 91 The literary motif of water represents the novel's theme of "everlasting, everchanging life," and the hymn represents the culmination of the motif in the novel.<sup>[242]</sup>: 91 The following is the hymn quoted in full.<sup>[243]</sup>

What in water did Bloom, waterlover, drawer of water, watercarrier returning to the range, admire?

Its universality: its democratic equality and constancy to its nature in seeking its own level: its vastness in the ocean of Mercator's projection: its unplumbed profundity in the Sundam trench of the Pacific exceeding 8,000 fathoms: the restlessness of its waves and surface particles visiting in turn all points of its seaboard: the independence of its units: the variability of states of sea: its hydrostatic quiescence in calm: its hydrokinetic turgidity in neap and spring tides: its subsidence after devastation: its sterility in the circumpolar icecaps, arctic and antarctic: its climatic and commercial significance: its preponderance of 3 to 1 over the dry land of the globe: its indisputable hegemony extending in square leagues over all the region below the subequatorial tropic of Capricorn: the multiseular stability of its primeval basin: its luteofulvous bed: its capacity to dissolve and hold in solution all soluble substances including millions of tons of the most precious metals: its slow erosions of peninsulas and downwardtending promontories: its alluvial deposits: its weight and volume and density: its imperturbability in lagoons and highland tarns: its gradation of colours in the torrid and temperate and frigid zones: its vehicular ramifications in continental lakecontained streams and confluent oceanflowing rivers with their tributaries and transoceanic currents: gulfstream, north and south equatorial courses: its violence in seaquakes, waterspouts, artesian wells, eruptions, torrents, eddies, freshets, spates, groundswells, watersheds, waterpartings, geysers, cataracts, whirlpools, maelstroms, inundations, deluges, cloudbursts: its vast circumterrestrial ahorizontal curve: its secrecy in springs, and latent humidity, revealed by rhabdomantic or hygrometric instruments and exemplified by the well by the hole in the wall at Ashtown gate, saturation of air, distillation of dew: the simplicity of its composition, two constituent parts of hydrogen with one constituent part of oxygen: its healing virtues: its buoyancy in the waters of the Dead Sea: its persevering penetrativeness in runnels, gullies, inadequate dams, leaks on shipboard: its properties for cleansing, quenching thirst and fire, nourishing

vegetation: its infallibility as paradigm and paragon: its metamorphoses as vapour, mist, cloud, rain, sleet, snow, hail: its strength in rigid hydrants: its variety of forms in loughs and bays and gulfs and bights and guts and lagoons and atolls and archipelagos and sounds and fjords and minches and tidal estuaries and arms of sea: its solidity in glaciers, icebergs, icefloes: its docility in working hydraulic millwheels, turbines, dynamos, electric power stations, bleachworks, tanneries, scutchmills: its utility in canals, rivers, if navigable, floating and graving docks: its potentiality derivable from harnessed tides or watercourses falling from level to level: its submarine fauna and flora (anacoustic, photophobe) numerically, if not literally, the inhabitants of the globe: its ubiquity as constituting 90% of the human body: the noxiousness of its effluvia in lacustrine marshes, pestilential fens, faded flowerwater, stagnant pools in the waning moon.



The vast "water hymn" in James Joyce's novel *Ulysses* is occasioned when the protagonist Leopold Bloom fills a kettle with water from a kitchen faucet.<sup>[243]</sup>

Painter and activist Fredericka Foster curated *The Value of Water*, at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine in New York City,<sup>[244]</sup> which anchored a year-long initiative by the Cathedral on our dependence on water.<sup>[245][246]</sup> The largest exhibition to ever appear at the Cathedral,<sup>[247]</sup> it featured over forty artists, including Jenny Holzer, Robert Longo, Mark Rothko, William Kentridge, April Gornik, Kiki Smith, Pat Steir, Alice Dalton Brown, Teresita Fernandez and Bill Viola.<sup>[248][249]</sup> Foster created Think About Water,<sup>[250]</sup><sup>[full citation needed]</sup> an ecological collective of artists who use water as their subject or medium. Members include Basia Irland,<sup>[251]</sup><sup>[full citation needed]</sup> Aviva Rahmani, Betsy Damon, Diane Burko, Leila Daw, Stacy Levy, Charlotte Coté,<sup>[252]</sup> Meridel Rubenstein, and Anna Macleod.

To mark the 10th anniversary of access to water and sanitation being declared a human right by the UN, the charity WaterAid commissioned ten visual artists to show the impact of clean water on people's lives.<sup>[253][254]</sup>

## Dihydrogen monoxide parody

[edit]

Main article: Dihydrogen monoxide parody

'Dihydrogen monoxide' is a technically correct but rarely used chemical name of water. This name has been used in a series of hoaxes and pranks that mock scientific illiteracy. This began in 1983, when an April Fools' Day article appeared in a newspaper in Durand, Michigan. The false story

consisted of safety concerns about the substance.<sup>[255]</sup>









## Music

[edit]

The word "Water" has been used by many Florida based rappers as a sort of catchphrase or adlib. Rappers who have done this include BLP Kosher and Ski Mask the Slump God.<sup>[256]</sup> To go even further some rappers have made whole songs dedicated to the water in Florida, such as the 2023 Danny Towers song "Florida Water".<sup>[257]</sup> Others have made whole songs dedicated to water as a whole, such as XXXTentacion, and Ski Mask the Slump God with their hit song "H2O".

## See also

[edit]

-   Oceans portal
-   Renewable energy portal
-   Water portal
-   Weather portal
- Outline of water – Overview of and topical guide to water
  - Water (data page) – Chemical data page for water is a collection of the chemical and physical properties of water.
  - Aquaphobia – Persistent and abnormal fear of water
  - Blue roof – Roof of a building that is designed to provide temporary water storage
  - Catchwater – Runoff catching or channeling device
  - Human right to water and sanitation
  - Hydroelectricity – Electricity generated by hydropower
  - List of waterfalls
  - Marine current power – Extraction of power from ocean currents
  - Marine energy – Energy available from oceans
  - Mpemba effect – Natural phenomenon that hot water freezes faster than cold
  - Oral rehydration therapy – Type of fluid replacement used to prevent and treat dehydration
  - Osmotic power – Energy available from the difference in the salt concentration between seawater and river water
  - Oxyhydrogen – Explosive mixture of hydrogen and oxygen gases
  - Properties of water – Physical and chemical properties of pure water
  - Rainwater tank – Container for collecting and storing rainwater
  - Thirst – Craving for potable fluids experienced by animals
  - Tidal power – Technology to convert the energy from tides into useful forms of power
  - Water pinch analysis – systematic technique for reducing water consumption and wastewater generation

- Wave power – Transport of energy by wind waves, and the capture of that energy to do useful work
- Water filter – Device that removes impurities in water
- Water heat recycling – Use of a heat exchanger to recover energy and reuse heat from drain water
- Water recycling shower – Showers that use a basin and a pump to re-use the showering water
- Water-sensitive urban design – Integrated approach to urban water cycle

## Notes

[edit]

1. ^ A commonly quoted value of 15.7 used mainly in organic chemistry for the  $pK_a$  of water is incorrect.<sup>[12][13]</sup>
2. ^ **a b** Vienna Standard Mean Ocean Water (VSMOW), used for calibration, melts at 273.150089(10) K (0.000089(10) °C, and boils at 373.1339 K (99.9839 °C). Other isotopic compositions melt or boil at slightly different temperatures.
3. ^ see the taste and odor section
4. ^ Other substances with this property include bismuth, silicon, germanium and gallium<sup>[57]</sup>

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[edit]

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## Further reading








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## External links

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- *H2O: The Molecule That Made Us*, a 2020 PBS documentary

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## Water

### Overviews

- Outline
- Data
- Model
- Properties

### States

- Liquid
- Ice
- Vapor
- Steam
  - superheated

### Forms

- Deuterium-depleted
- Semiheavy
- Heavy
- Tritiated
- Doubly labeled water
- Hydronium

Water droplet

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Water  
droplet

### On Earth

- Cycle
- Distribution
- Hydrosphere
  - Hydrology
  - Hydrobiology
- Origin
- Pollution
- Resources
  - management
  - policy
- Supply

## Extraterrestrial

- Extraterrestrial liquid water
  - Asteroidal water
  - Planetary oceanography
  - Ocean world
  - Hycean planet
  - List of Candidates
- Specific
  - Europa
  - Mars
  - Moon
  - Enceladus

## Physical parameters

- Stratification
  - Ocean stratification
  - Lake stratification
- Ocean temperature

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## Food chemistry

- Additives
- Carbohydrates
- Coloring
- Enzymes
- Essential fatty acids
- Flavors
- Fortification
- Lipids
- "Minerals" (Chemical elements)
- Proteins
- Vitamins
- Water

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## Natural resources

### Air

- Pollution / quality
  - Ambient standards (US)
  - Index
  - Indoor
  - Law
    - Clean Air Act (US)
  - Ozone depletion
- Emissions
  - Airshed
  - Trading
  - Deforestation (REDD)

### Energy

- Bio
- Law
- Resources
- Fossil fuels (gas, peak coal, peak gas, peak oil)
- Geothermal
- Hydro
- Nuclear
- Solar
  - sunlight
  - shade
- Wind

## Land

- Agricultural
  - arable
    - peak farmland
- Degradation
- Field
- Landscape
  - cityscape
  - seascape
  - soundscape
  - viewshed
- Law
  - property
- Management
  - habitat conservation
- Minerals
  - gemstone
  - industrial
  - ore
    - metal
  - mining
    - law
    - sand
  - peak
    - copper
    - phosphorus
  - rights
- Soil
  - conservation
  - fertility
  - health
  - resilience
- Use
  - planning
  - reserve

## **Life**

- Biodiversity
- Bioprospecting
  - biopiracy
- Biosphere
- Bushfood
- Bushmeat
- Fisheries
  - climate change
  - law
  - management
- Forests
  - genetic resources
  - law
  - management
  - non-timber products
- Game
  - law
- Marine conservation
- Meadow
- Pasture
- Plants
  - FAO Plant Treaty
  - food
  - genetic resources
  - gene banks
  - herbal medicines
  - UPOV Convention
  - wood
- Rangeland
- Seed bank
- Wildlife
  - conservation
  - management

Water	Types / location	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Aquifer <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ storage and recovery</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ Drinking</li> <li>○ Fresh</li> <li>○ Groundwater <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ pollution</li> <li>○ recharge</li> <li>○ remediation</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ Hydrosphere</li> <li>○ Ice <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ bergs</li> <li>○ glacial</li> <li>○ polar</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ Irrigation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <i>huerta</i></li> </ul> </li> <li>○ Marine</li> <li>○ Rain <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ harvesting</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ Stormwater</li> <li>○ Surface water</li> <li>○ Sewage <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ reclaimed water</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ Watershed</li> </ul>
	Aspects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Desalination</li> <li>○ Floods</li> <li>○ Law</li> <li>○ Leaching</li> <li>○ Sanitation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ improved</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ Scarcity</li> <li>○ Security</li> <li>○ Supply</li> <li>○ Efficiency</li> <li>○ Conflict</li> <li>○ Conservation</li> <li>○ Peak water</li> <li>○ Pollution</li> <li>○ Privatization</li> <li>○ Quality</li> <li>○ Right</li> <li>○ Resources <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ improved</li> <li>○ policy</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

- Commons
  - enclosure
  - global
  - land
  - tragedy of
- Economics
  - ecological
  - land
- Ecosystem services
- Exploitation
  - overexploitation
  - Earth Overshoot Day
- Management
  - adaptive
- Natural capital
  - accounting
  - good
- Natural heritage
- Nature reserve
  - remnant natural area
- Systems ecology
- Urban ecology
- Wilderness

## Related

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|----------|---|
|          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Common-pool</li> <li>○ Conflict (perpetuation)</li> <li>○ Curse</li> </ul>                             |
| Resource | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Depletion</li> <li>○ Extraction</li> <li>○ Nationalism</li> <li>○ Renewable / Non-renewable</li> </ul> |

- |          |   |
|----------|---|
|          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Oil war</li> <li>○ Petroleum politics</li> </ul>                     |
| Politics | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Petrostate</li> <li>○ Petro-Islam</li> <li>○ Resource war</li> </ul> |

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Molecules detected in outer space



**Diatomic**

- Aluminium monochloride
- Aluminium monofluoride
- Aluminium(II) oxide
- Argonium
- Carbon cation
- Carbon monophosphide
- Carbon monosulfide
- Carbon monoxide
- Cyano radical
- Diatomic carbon
- Fluoromethylidynium
- Helium hydride ion
- Hydrogen chloride
- Hydrogen fluoride
- Hydrogen (molecular)
- Hydroxyl radical
- Imidogen
- Iron(II) oxide
- Magnesium monohydride
- Methylidyne radical
- Nitric oxide
- Nitrogen (molecular)
- Oxygen (molecular)
- Phosphorus monoxide
- Phosphorus mononitride
- Potassium chloride
- Silicon carbide
- Silicon monoxide
- Silicon monosulfide
- Sodium chloride
- Sodium iodide
- Sulfanyl
- Sulfur mononitride
- Sulfur monoxide
- Titanium(II) oxide

- Aluminium(I) hydroxide
- Aluminium isocyanide
- Amino radical
- Carbon dioxide
- Carbonyl sulfide
- CCP radical
- Chloronium
- Diazenylium
- Dicarbon monoxide
- Disilicon carbide
- Ethynyl radical
- Formyl radical

**Deuterated  
molecules**

- Ammonia
- Ammonium ion
- Formaldehyde
- Formyl radical
- Heavy water
- Hydrogen cyanide
- Hydrogen deuteride
- Hydrogen isocyanide
- $\text{N}_2\text{D}^+$
- Propyne
- Trihydrogen cation

**Unconfirmed**

- Anthracene
- Dihydroxyacetone
- Glycine
- Graphene
- $\text{H}_2\text{NCO}^+$
- Hemolitin
- Linear  $\text{C}_5$
- Methoxyethane
- Naphthalene cation
- Phosphine
- Pyrene
- Silylidyne

- Abiogenesis
- Astrobiology
- Astrochemistry
- Atomic and molecular astrophysics
- Chemical formula
- Circumstellar dust
- Circumstellar envelope
- Cosmic dust
- Cosmic ray
- Cosmochemistry
- Diffuse interstellar band
- Earliest known life forms
- Extraterrestrial life
- Extraterrestrial liquid water
- Forbidden mechanism
- Homochirality
- Intergalactic dust
- Interplanetary medium
- Interstellar medium
- Iron–sulfur world theory
- Kerogen
- Molecules in stars
- Nexus for Exoplanet System Science
- Organic compound
- Outer space
- PAH world hypothesis
- Photodissociation region
- Polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbon (PAH)
- Pseudo-panspermia
- RNA world hypothesis
- Spectroscopy
- Tholin

## Related

-  **Category: Astrochemistry**
-  **Outer space portal**
-  **Astronomy portal**
-  **Chemistry portal**

**Authority control databases**  **Edit this at Wikidata**

## **National**

- Germany
- United States
- France
- BnF data
- Japan
- Czech Republic
- Spain
- Israel

## **Other**

- NARA
- ?slâm Ansiklopedisi

## **About hygiene**

Health is a collection of practices carried out to maintain health. According to the Globe Wellness Company (WHO), "Health describes problems and methods that help to preserve health and wellness and avoid the spread of illness." Personal health describes preserving the body's cleanliness. Hygiene activities can be grouped right into the following: home and daily hygiene, personal health, clinical hygiene, sleep hygiene, and food hygiene. Home and everyday hygiene includes hand washing, breathing hygiene, food health in the house, health in the kitchen area, health in the washroom, washing health, and medical health in the house. And likewise ecological hygiene in the culture to stop all type of bacterias from penetrating right into our homes. Many individuals equate health with "sanitation", but hygiene is a wide term. It consists of such personal practice selections as exactly how often to shower or bathroom, laundry hands, trim finger nails, and wash garments. It additionally includes attention to keeping surfaces in the home and office tidy, including shower room facilities. Adherence to regular hygiene methods is commonly regarded as a socially liable and reputable behavior, while disregarding proper hygiene can be viewed as unclean or unhygienic, and may be considered socially inappropriate or disrespectful, while likewise positioning a danger to public wellness.

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## **About Royal Porta Johns**

## **Driving Directions in Plymouth County**

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### **Driving Directions**

41.962854085438, -71.04091025038

Starting Point

Royal Porta Johns

Destination

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### Driving Directions

42.104680248963, -71.112155292132

Starting Point

Royal Porta Johns

Destination

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### **Driving Directions**

41.973592197766, -70.928381490974

Starting Point

Royal Porta Johns

Destination

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### **Driving Directions**

42.046132954551, -70.99047783799

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41.947988424446, -71.055535356582

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Royal Porta Johns

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42.091518808441, -71.0716585539

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### **Driving Directions**

42.036562632746, -70.939922642068

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### **Driving Directions**

42.101911608886, -71.08021216269

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### **Driving Directions**

42.112630239887, -71.066436661126

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42.081613424355, -71.05239643919

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[70.982857925563,25.2z/data=!4m6!3m5!1s0x89e48f0bdb75549d:0x9ac1c8405242e765!8m2!3d42.0232265](https://www.google.com/maps/place/Royal+Porta+Johns/@41.992776220847,-70.982857925563,25.2z/data=!4m6!3m5!1s0x89e48f0bdb75549d:0x9ac1c8405242e765!8m2!3d42.023226571.0537696!16s%2F)

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## Frequently Asked Questions

**What are the standard dimensions and capacity of a regular portable restroom?**

Standard portable restrooms typically measure 44 inches wide x 48 inches deep x 88 inches tall and can service approximately 50-60 uses before requiring servicing.

**What basic amenities are included in a standard portable restroom?**

Standard units include a toilet with toilet paper dispenser, urinal, hand sanitizer dispenser, ventilation system, and occupancy indicator.

**How often does a standard portable restroom need to be serviced?**

For regular use, standard portable restrooms should be serviced once per week. For events or heavy usage (more than 50-60 uses per day), daily servicing is recommended.

Royal Porta Johns

Phone : 17744442014

City : West Bridgewater

State : MA

Zip : 02379

Address : 400, West Street

### **Google Business Profile**

Company Website : <https://royalportajohns.com/>

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