

Water Conservation

Conserving the foundation of life

Overview

You may have heard that the earth is made up of 70% water. So why is water considered a limited resource? This is because only 3% of Earth's water is usable. Salt water, the majority of Earth's water, can only be used for mining and power plant cooling. More practical and everyday usage of water, such as drinking, showering, or watering plants needs to be freshwater.

Because we use freshwater in our everyday lives, and there is not an infinite amount of it, it is important to think about water conservation. Water conservation is the practice of preservation and management of water in order to use water in the most efficient way possible.



Importance

Water is a key component of life. Not only do we need it to complete daily tasks, but plants, animals, and humans all need water to live. Water conservation is so important because it helps ensure clean, usable water to sustain plant and animal life. Water is used a lot more than people might consider when going about their day. For example, one

hamburger needs 634 gallons of water to be made. The "hidden water" comes from the water needed to raise the cow, grow the vegetables, and actually make the burger. When water usage is put into perspective, it helps explain the importance of water conservation. It also helps to paint a picture of how devastating a water shortage can be. Sadly, many places around the world already face water scarcity issues. Water shortages immediately affect human life, agricultural practices, and the nearby environment. Another consequence of clean water shortages is an increase of disease. Some countries that struggle to have clean water sources must boil all their water before using it. Water that is not properly cleaned can carry and pass diseases, such as polio and cholera. It can also lead to hygienic problems from lack of showering and brushing teeth which also contribute to a human's health. Water is one of the most important factors in human survival and environmental health, so water conservation should be implemented wherever and whenever possible.

How to Conserve

While conserving large amounts of water might seem like a nearly impossible task for just one person, if everyone tries to have better water conservation habits, there will be major impacts. Conserving water does not need an entire lifestyle change, but can be implemented fairly easily into day-to-day life. One of the easiest ways to conserve water is to turn water off when not using it. Whether that's while you brush your teeth, shave, or wash your hands, small amounts of water will be saved by turning the faucet off for the short periods of time you aren't using the water. Another easy way to conserve water is to take faster showers, even if it's just five minutes. Showering five minutes less everyday for a month can save up to 387.5 gallons of water. Some other ways include using a dishwasher to wash dishes, and making sure to use the

correct amount of water for each load of laundry. There are many other ways to conserve water, whether it be in the large scale or small scale, and it is important to help in any way possible.

Notes/References

[Water Conservation Links](#)



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