

Water Wizard: Water Facts



General Facts:

- Water is measured in acre feet. An acre foot would cover one acre of land one foot deep. There are 325,851 gallons per acre foot.
- The average American uses over 100 gallons of water a day; the average home uses over 100,000 gallons per year.
- If the Astrodome in Houston could be filled with water it would hold 448,800,000 gallons.
- 3/4 (75 percent) of the Earth's surface is covered by water.
- 97 percent of the Earth's water is in the oceans (salt water), useless for plant and animal consumption.
- Less than two percent of the earth's water is considered "fresh" water, suitable for drinking.
- Two percent of the fresh water is locked up in ice, glaciers and polar ice caps.
- Only .62 percent of fresh water is found in lakes, rivers, and underground, and is available for human consumption (the rest is clouds and vapor).
- .6 percent of this available fresh water is underground and only .02% is surface water.
- Only half of the world's population has access to clean water for sanitation, drinking and other human needs.
- The human body is 65 % water. Humans can survive only about one week without water.
- Many animals, fruits, and vegetables are made mostly of water. An elephant is 70 percent water, a chicken is 75 percent water, an ear of corn is 80 percent water, and a tomato is 95 percent water. An adult human being is 50 percent to 65 percent water, a child 75 percent water.
- 1 gallon of water weighs 8.34 pounds.
- 1 cubic foot of water contains 7.48 gallons and weighs 62.4 pounds.
- A dripping faucet can waste up to 2,000 gallons of water per year. A leaky toilet may lose as much as 200 gallons per day.
- It takes 1,851 gallons (7,000 liters) of water to refine one barrel of crude oil.

Texas Water Facts

- Not counting the Great Lakes, Texas ranks first in the nation for number of square miles of fresh, inland surface water (4,950 square miles).
- Texas has eight Coastal basins, which include river deltas, estuaries, bays and marshes.
- The Laguna Madre is one of only four hyper-saline estuaries in the world.
- Caddo Lake is the only natural lake in Texas.
- Texas has over 6,700 lakes with at least 10 surface acres.

- Seventy-five of Texas' 205 major reservoirs provide over 98% of the state's water storage capacity.
- About 81% of Texas sits over an aquifer.
- 96% of all groundwater in Texas comes from its 9 major aquifers.
- Current projections anticipate Texans using 17,600,000 acre-feet of water per year by 2050. Texas has already developed 75-80% of its conventional (fresh ground and surface) water resources.
- Average rainfall ranges from over 56 inches per year in the southeast corner to a mere 8 inches per year around El Paso.
- Presidio, in West Texas, had only 1.6 inches of rainfall in 1956.
- Clarksville, in Northeast Texas, had 109 inches of rainfall in 1873.
- The most rainfall recorded in a single day was 29 inches in Albany in North Central Texas.
- The largest nonstop rainstorm was in 1979. It lasted three days and dropped 45 inches of rain on Alvin on the Upper Gulf Coast.
- In the average Texas non-conserving home, 27% of indoor water is used to flush toilets, 17% for showers, 22% for laundry, 16% for running faucets, and 14% for leaks.

Population Statistics for Burleson and Milam Counties

- The 2000 population of Texas' 254 counties was 20,851,820. The population of Texas is projected to double by 2050.
- Burleson County's 2000 population: 16,470. 2005 estimate: 17,238. Spread over 678 square miles, the density is 25 people per square mile.
- Milam County's 2000 population: 24,238. 2005 estimate: 25,354. Spread over 1,022 square miles, the density is 24 people per square mile.

Texas River Facts

- Texas has 15 major rivers and 11,247 named streams.
- There are about 80,000 miles of rivers and streams in Texas.
- There are 23 major watersheds in Texas.
- The Rio Grande is the longest river in Texas, and is one of the longest rivers in the world. It starts in the mountains of Colorado and runs for 1,896 miles.
- The Comal River in New Braunfels is the shortest at only 2.5 miles long.
- The Sabine River forms part of the Texas-Louisiana border. It discharges more water to the Gulf of Mexico than any other Texas river.
- The 600-mile long Colorado River is the longest river located completely within one state.
- The Red forms part of the Oklahoma and Arkansas borders and is the only Texas river that is part of the Mississippi river basin.

Water Quotes

- When the well is dry, we know the worth of water. ~ Benjamin Franklin
- Do not let your chances like sunbeams pass you by, for you never miss the water till the well runs dry. ~ Rowland Howard, 1876.
- Water is the true wealth in a dry land. ~ Wallace Stegner
- The frog does not drink up the pond in which he lives. ~American Indian saying
- We forget that the water cycle and the life cycle are one. ~Jacques Cousteau