



How Much Water Do I Need?

What is an acre foot?

- Ø Amount of water to cover one acre to the depth of one foot
- Ø One acre-foot is equal to 325,851 gallons of water
- Ø .5 acre feet per year equals
 - 162,925 gallons per year
 - 14,160 gallons per month
 - 448 gallons per day
- Ø .3 acre feet per year equals
 - 97,755 gallons per year
 - 8,146 gallons per month
 - 269 gallons per day
- Ø State rural domestic well use average is 0.3 afy

How much water do I use a day?

According to an Office of the State Engineer technical report prepared by Brian C. Wilson, P.E.:

- Ø The average toilet uses 1.6 gallons per flush
- Ø The average family of four flushes 16 to 28 times per day
- Ø NEPA now requires that all showerheads and faucets shall not exceed a maximum flow of 2.5 gallons per minute (gpm).
- Ø A family of four uses an average of 36 gallons per day from their faucets and the average person takes a 4.8 minute shower
- Ø Evaporative coolers use an average of 10,758 gallons per year in a 1,130 hour cooling season (average for Albuquerque)
- Ø Dishwashers manufactured in the U.S. use 7.5 to 12.5 gallons per wash in the normal cycle
- Ø European models use 5.5 to 8.5 gallons per wash
- Ø A study conducted at Ohio State University showed that 16 gallons of water are typically used to hand wash 8 place settings and serving pieces
- Ø Washing machines in the regular cycle use 40 to 45 gallons per load for a top loader, and 25-30 gallons per load for a front loader
- Ø Studies show that landscape water use for 1600 square feet of Kentucky bluegrass (not a desert friendly variety) irrigated by a sprinkler equals 48,220 gallons per year