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ON THE WALL

How do we (mis)use water?

We humans are strange creatures. We love data and statistics. For example, we know that two-third of the globe is water. Ninety seven per cent of it is not usable as it is saline. We have just 3 per cent freshwater. And only about 0.3 per cent of this is found as surface water in lakes, rivers and other water bodies. And still we waste water carelessly...

GT backs an average day in our lives and how we can try and use water prudently



Brushing teeth

About 6 litres of water is wasted per minute if we leave a tap on while brushing teeth. Do not keep water running while brushing teeth.

Toilet flush

Every time we flush, we waste 6 litres of water. Use a flush which uses only a necessary amount!



Forty-five litres is the amount of water used by an automatic- washing machine. Semi-automatic washing machine uses about 65 litres of water.

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Therefore, we should ideally wash clothes using an automatic-washing machine.

Water activities

A water park uses up at least 3 million gallons of water each year = 1.1×10^7 litres. Swimming pool uses 15, 300 litres a month for (refilling). We should restrict and limit these activities as far as possible.

RO: Every litre of water purified, wastes 3 litres of water. Therefore, we should find and use more traditional methods of water purification like using sand filters, boiling water, etc.

Drinking water

Other daily activities and their respective water usage

- Leaking taps (drop-by-drop) can waste 10,000 litres in a year.
- When refilling water bottles, we tend to first throw away any water that the bottle previously contained. If we assume a standard 500 ml water bottle, it is can be said that we throw away around 30-50 ml of water per bottle before we start the refilling process. This water instead can be used for other purposes, for example to water plants, etc.

Water Report Card

Activity to monitor daily water usage

Activity	You consume (in Litres)
Bathing (bucket or shower)	
Brushing teeth	
Toilet flush	
Washing clothes (Automatic vs semi- automatic washing machine)	
Washing car (bucket or hose pipe)	
Drinking water (Aqua guard RO)	

Key to account for water leakage:

No. of drops per second	Water lost (Litres per day)	
1	32.7	
2	65.4	
3	97.9	
4	130.8	
5	163.3	
Five drips per second is a steady stream		
Source: American Water Work Association (2008)		

Ten litres is used for

Car washing

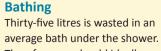
a car with a hosepipe. washing a car with a bucket. Therefore, we should ideally wash cars

Nine litres per minute of

water is used for washing

with bucket.





Therefore, we should ideally take bath with a bucket.

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