

Only Tap Water Delivers Quality of Life

Tap water is more than a convenience; it is central to our everyday lives.

- Any measure of a successful society — low mortality rates, economic diversity, productivity, public safety — is in some way related to access to safe water.
- Tap water is so intricately part of our lives that we can hardly imagine a day without it. Without tap water ...
 - ... How would we rinse our produce, clean dishes and clothes, water plants and landscapes and wash our cars?
 - ... Where would we shower?
 - ... How many businesses would have to suspend operations or relocate entirely?
 - ... How would our institutions - from hospitals to firehouses to schools – function?
- Americans use about 30 billion gallons of tap water every day. Median water use in a typical single-family home is between 60 and 79 gallons per day.

2011 State of the Industry Report, American Water Works Association

Did you know?

Only 1-3 percent of the tap water we use on a typical day is used for drinking. The rest goes for outdoor watering, bathroom uses, clothes washing, etc.

Japanese tsunami underscores value of water

A reliable water supply contributes to our quality of life in so many ways that it is difficult to fully measure. However, it is possible to get a sense by examining what can happen when disaster strikes.

- ◆ After the earthquake and tsunami hit Japan in 2011, 1.6 million people were left without a water supply.
- ◆ There were also concerns about ground water being contaminated by failed nuclear reactors.
- ◆ While bottled water provided emergency relief, homes and businesses could not return to normal operations until water service was restored.



**American Water Works
Association**

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