This activity will help you determine the amount of water that you use every week. The water usage for each activity is listed in the chart below. Estimate the number of times you perform each of the tasks below and multiply by the number of gallons the activity uses. Finally, add all the totals to determine how much water you use per week.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Activity | Water use per time | Number of times per week | Total gallons per week |
| Bath or shower |  |  |  |
| Brushing teeth |  |  |  |
| Flushing toilet |  |  |  |
| Drinking tap water |  |  |  |
| Washing hands |  |  |  |
| Cooking |  |  |  |
| Hand-washing dishes |  |  |  |
| Using dishwasher |  |  |  |
| Washing clothes |  |  |  |
| Washing car |  |  |  |
| Yard/garden water |  |  |  |
| Electricity\* |  |  |  |
| Evaporative cooler |  |  |  |
| Swimming pool |  |  |  |
| **Total gallons of water used per week** | | |  |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Activity | Estimated Water Usage (gallons) |
| Washing face/hands (without water running) | 1 |
| Shower (standard shower head) | 40 |
| Shower (low-flow shower head) | 20 |
| Bath | 50 |
| Brushing teeth (water running) | 2 |
| Brushing teeth (water off) | 0.25 |
| Flushing toilet (standard flow) | 4 |
| Hand-washing dishes | 10 |
| Shaving | 2 |
| Glass of water | 0.25 |
| Cooking a meal | 3 |
| Hand-washing dishes | 10 |
| Dishwasher (pre-1999) | 15 |
| Dishwasher (newer) | 5 |
| Top-loading clothes washing machine | 30 per load |
| Front-loading clothes washing machine | 10 per load |
| Watering average-sized front/backyard | 300 |
| Washing car | 50 |
| One kilowatt-hour of electricity | 0.8 |
| Evaporative cooler | 4.4 gal./hr. without bleeder hose, 10.4 gal./hr. with bleeder hose |
| Swimming pool\*  (loss due to evaporation in summer) |
| 15 ft x 30 ft = 70 gallons per day  40 ft x 20 ft = 125 gallons per day |

According to the United States Geological Survey, it is estimated that each person uses about 80-100 gallons of water per day or 560-700 gallons per week. This number is an average and may be higher in places that are dry and hot. Answer the following questions to determine whether your use of water at home is average or needs to be adjusted.

1. If your water usage is above average, what was the largest source of water usage at your house? List three ways you could minimize the water usage of your largest water usage activity.
2. What is the municipal water source for your area (groundwater or surface water)?
3. What is the average water usage per person in your town or region?
4. Based on the number of people living in your house, how many gallons per week does your family use?