**INSTREAM USE**

**Recreation**

Water is used for recreational activities such as boating, swimming, fishing, and tubing.

**Hydroelectric Power**

Hydroelectric power uses water to generate electricity. Falling water turns the turbines in generating stations.

**Nature’s Needs**

Water is necessary to maintain life on our planet. Water supplies all living things with the necessary water they need to grow and develop. The water cycle, which includes the production of water, is essential for the survival of all living things.

**Transportation**

Water provides a means for transportation of goods and materials. Many towns in the United States serve as major transportation terminals.

**OFFSTREAM USE**

**Public Supply**

Public supply water is obtained from natural resources and distributed to communities for domestic, industrial, and commercial uses. The water is treated to ensure that it is safe for consumption.

**Domestic and Commercial**

A subdivision of Public Supply is domestic and commercial water use. Domestic water is water used for household purposes, such as cooking and washing. Commercial water is water used for commercial purposes, such as in retail stores and restaurants. Water supplies are necessary for the safety and health of the public.

**Wastewater Treatment**

Wastewater treatment is the process of removing harmful substances from water before it is released back into the environment. Wastewater treatment plants use various methods to clean water before it is returned to the environment.

**Agriculture**

In agriculture, water is used for irrigation and irrigation practices include various methods of providing water for plants. Water is also used to control weeds, pests, and diseases in crops.

**Thermoelectric Power**

Thermoelectric power is the production of electricity by using heat from a source. The heat is used to produce steam, which is then used to turn turbines that generate electricity.

**Industrial and Mining**

Industrial uses of water include mining, the largest use being water used for cooling. Other uses include water used for processing, irrigation, and water supply. The water is used for cooling by various industries to maintain the proper temperature for machinery.

**WATER USE CHART**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Use of Water</th>
<th>Water Use</th>
<th>Water Use Requirements</th>
<th>Potential Impact</th>
<th>Water-saving Suggestions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Drinking</strong></td>
<td>3 liters/day</td>
<td>3 liters</td>
<td>3 liters</td>
<td>Use large amounts of water to wash hands, use cold water for drinking, and use water to wash clothes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Toilet</strong></td>
<td>20 liters/day</td>
<td>20 liters</td>
<td>20 liters</td>
<td><strong>Use large amounts of water to wash hands, use cold water for drinking, and use water to wash clothes.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Washing</strong></td>
<td>40 liters/week</td>
<td>40 liters</td>
<td>40 liters</td>
<td><strong>Use large amounts of water to wash hands, use cold water for drinking, and use water to wash clothes.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Showering</strong></td>
<td>20 liters/week</td>
<td>20 liters</td>
<td>20 liters</td>
<td><strong>Use large amounts of water to wash hands, use cold water for drinking, and use water to wash clothes.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Washing hands</strong></td>
<td>10 liters</td>
<td>10 liters</td>
<td>10 liters</td>
<td><strong>Use large amounts of water to wash hands, use cold water for drinking, and use water to wash clothes.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Shower</strong></td>
<td>5 minutes</td>
<td>5 minutes</td>
<td>5 minutes</td>
<td><strong>Use large amounts of water to wash hands, use cold water for drinking, and use water to wash clothes.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Cloth</strong></td>
<td>120 days</td>
<td>120 days</td>
<td>120 days</td>
<td><strong>Use large amounts of water to wash hands, use cold water for drinking, and use water to wash clothes.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Laundry</strong></td>
<td>350 liters/week</td>
<td>350 liters</td>
<td>350 liters</td>
<td><strong>Use large amounts of water to wash hands, use cold water for drinking, and use water to wash clothes.</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**DEFINITIONS**

**Agriculture**

Cultivation of crops or livestock that live in a water environment, such as fish, cattle, and sheep. Agriculture includes the production of food, fiber, and other products that are obtained from plants and animals.

**Combined Use**

The use of water that can be used for more than one purpose, such as for drinking, cooking, and cleaning.

**Conservation**

The practice of using water efficiently and wisely to ensure that it is available for future generations. Conservation includes the careful planning and management of water resources to ensure their sustainable use.

**Hydrogen Power**

Hydrogen power is a renewable energy source that uses water to generate electricity. The power is generated by using water to produce steam, which is then used to turn turbines.

**Nature’s Needs**

Water is necessary to maintain life on our planet. Water supplies all living things with the necessary water they need to grow and develop. The water cycle, which includes the production of water, is essential for the survival of all living things.

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The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) is the Nation's principal environmental information and research agency. The USGS monitors the quantity, quality, and conditions of the Nation's water resources, including surface and groundwater, and provides information on how water resources are affected by natural and human activities.

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