

Water Footprints

An activity of "World Water Day".

Read the two articles in "World Water Day" (page 6-7, *What's Up* March 2025). Let's learn more about water footprints. A water footprint is the total amount of freshwater used to produce the goods and services we consume. It includes both the water we use directly and the hidden water used. Water footprints can help us to use water responsibly.

1. Watch the following video to find out more about water footprints.

Water footprints

➤ https://youtu.be/Wpm7cvGqI8g?si=8fOtfNdECD_SaNmm

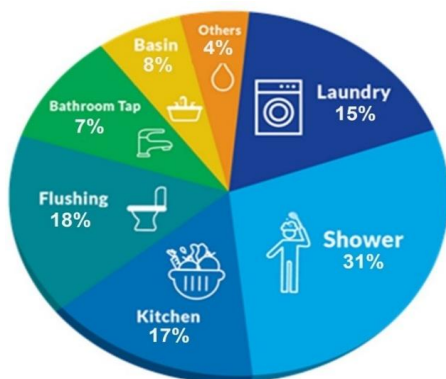
(Lexicon of Food, 22 Dec 2018)

a) What is an example of direct water use?

b) What is an example of indirect (hidden) water use?

c) Why do you think some countries have a higher water footprint than others?

2. Let's look at how water is used in an average Singaporean household:



PUB Household Water Consumption
Study in 2021/2022

Do you know how much water you use for different activities at home? The pie chart on the left is by Singapore's national water agency PUB. It shows the percentage breakdown of water use for each activity in a typical household.

PUB conducted the latest household water consumption study from 2021 to 2022 with about 400 households. It showed that showering, flushing, washing in the kitchen, and doing the laundry consume the most amount of water in households. They make up 81 per cent of a household's total water use.

Source: <https://www.pub.gov.sg/public/waterloop/water-conservation>

a) Which are the top four areas that consume the largest amount of water?

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b) In a small group, discuss:

- What habits or practices might contribute to higher water use in each category?
- What can we do to reduce water use in each area? One has been done for you.

Area	These habits use more water	These habits use less water
Laundry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Washing only a few items each time in the washing machine. • Rinsing clothes under running water. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Washing full loads and using eco-friendly settings. • Rinse less. Use the rinse water to mop floors or flush toilets.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • • 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • •
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • • 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • •
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • • 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • •

3. Create a poster to show how we can use less water, especially in the areas of highest water consumption shown in the pie chart above.

- Have a clear and catchy title.
- Focus on at least three water-saving actions related to the high water-use areas.
- Illustrate your poster so that it is visually appealing.
- Keep your messages simple and impactful.
- Use big, bold fonts and high contrast colours so it is easy to read.

4. Present your posters in a gallery walk.