

# YOUR RESPECT

Unlike people in many parts of the world, Americans enjoy reliable access to safe and clean water and wastewater services. These systems, along with thousands of dedicated water and wastewater professionals, work around the clock all year long to keep the water flowing in and out of our homes and businesses.

In fact, these systems have worked so well that many of us take them for granted. We turn on the tap or flush the toilet and we expect both to work. Water is so readily available that we might not give it a second thought. Now is the time to stop, think, and act.

## Did you know?

- The Earth surface is about 70% water, but only 1% is suitable for human consumption and use.
- There is no “new” water. It just gets recycled and reused. Think about it ... we drink the same water that the dinosaurs did some 240 million years ago!
- The average American uses between 100 and 175 gallons every day compared to 2.64 gallons of water used per day by the average person in the developing world.<sup>1</sup>
- The average American family spends about \$474 a year on water and sewer services.<sup>2</sup> In comparison, the average American cable TV bill is more than \$1,000 a year and is expected to rise to \$1,476 a year by 2015 and \$2,400 a year by 2020.<sup>3</sup>
- Compared to an American’s use of 176 gallons of water per day, the average African family uses only 5 gallons per day.<sup>1</sup>

## Small actions can make a BIG difference.

- Be more aware of your water use. Turn off the tap while washing your hands or brushing your teeth. Leaving the water running can waste 3 gallons of clean water per minute.<sup>1</sup>
- Washing one load of clothes in a standard washer uses 27 gallons of water per load. Try washing only full loads or upgrade to a high-efficiency washer. ENERGY STAR rated washers use 50% less water per load. That can save 43,000 gallons of water over the machine’s lifetime.<sup>4</sup>
- Think before you flush. It’s a toilet, not a trashcan! Flush only your personal contributions to the local wastewater treatment facility. Remember, you don’t have to flush every time you go!
- Educate yourself. Take a tour of your local water and wastewater treatment plant to learn what happens to the water that you drink and use.

- Read and understand your water and wastewater bill.
- Stay informed about the water quality issues facing your community by contacting your local municipality and attending public meetings.

## You need water. Water needs you.

Indispensable to jobs, the economy, our health and our communities, water runs through our lives in many ways. Everyone uses water and everyone is responsible for it.

We must all work together to keep our water clean and healthy. To do that, we each need to learn to value water. **To learn more, visit [www.WatersWorthIt.org](http://www.WatersWorthIt.org).**

BE AS GOOD TO WATER AS WATER’S BEEN TO YOU.  
**WATER’S WORTH IT.**<sup>®</sup>



[www.WatersWorthIt.org](http://www.WatersWorthIt.org)

1. The Facts About The Global Drinking Water Crisis. Retrieved May 23, 2012 from <http://blueplanetnetwork.org/water/facts> 2. Stallworth, Holly (2002). EPA Office of Water. Raftelis Financial Consulting 2002 Water and Wastewater Rate Survey. 3. The NPD Group. Pay-TV bills continue to increase by 6 percent, year-over-year, as consumer-spending power remains flat. [Press Release]. Retrieved on May 23, 2012 from [https://www.npd.com/wps/portal/npd/us/news/pressreleases/pr\\_120410](https://www.npd.com/wps/portal/npd/us/news/pressreleases/pr_120410) 4. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s Energy Star Program. Clothes Washers for Consumers. Retrieved on May 23, 2012 from [http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?i=usaaction=find\\_a\\_product.showProductGroup&pgv\\_code=CW](http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?i=usaaction=find_a_product.showProductGroup&pgv_code=CW)