

9. Water use in households

9.1. Consumption of water in households

An average three-person household consumes approximately 360 litres of water per day. The average consumption per person is therefore around 120 litres per day, or 40 cubic metres per year.

Nearly half of the water consumption in the household is required for bathing, showering and flushing toilets. Around one fourth of the water consumption is required for washing laundry and dishwashers. Only a small part – approximately 5% - is used for cooking and drinking.

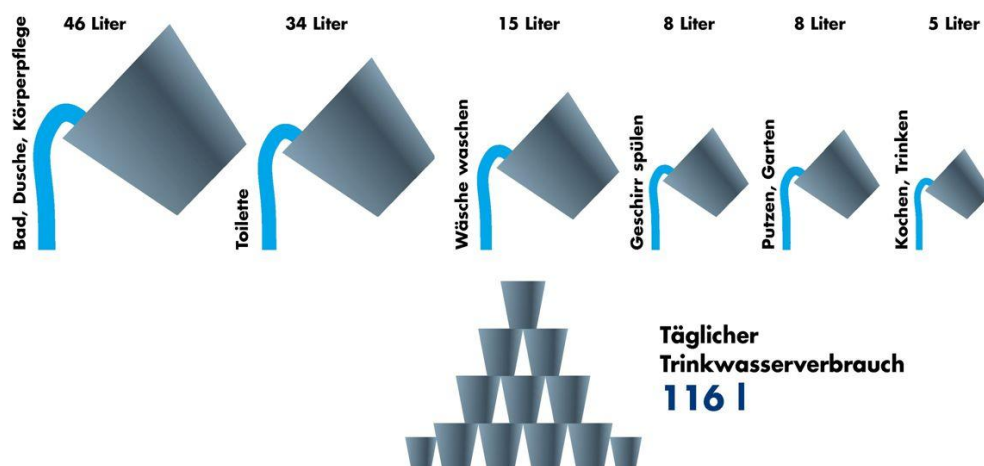


Figure 1 Water consumption per person. Source: Energy Agency of North Rhine – Westphalia

A significant part of the water consumption is unnecessary; that is, the same level of usage could be achieved with a smaller amount of water. Dealing more consumption-consciously with water and a few smaller investments are sufficient to reduce the consumption of water by around 30%. In respect of hot water, this amounts to double savings: here the energy costs for heating water can also be reduced.

A similar double benefit due to savings of hot water also applies for washing machines and dishwashers: Low water consumption leads to less consumption of electricity for heating the water in the respective appliance.

9.2. Water prices at national levels

The water consumption in Cyprus comes from three main sources. The fresh surface water abstraction ant 22%, the fresh ground water abstraction at 55% and water from desalination plants at 23%. The total water consumption in Cyprus is 280.7 million cubic meters.

9.3. Domestic hot water

Whether the household uses an electric water heater, centralized heating plant, a gas boiler or any other way for domestic hot water, the provision of domestic hot water is the second largest expense of the total energy costs of each household.

Warming up water from the thermal power plant is a convenience to households, as there is no limit to the amount of hot water that can be consumed. However, unnecessary waste of natural resources is putting the family budget at risk and damaging the environment we live in.