

Soil and water factsheet

Soil:

- Soil makes up the outermost layer of our planet and is formed from rocks and decaying plants and animals.
- An average soil sample is 45 percent minerals, 25 percent water, 25 percent air, and five percent organic matter. Different-sized mineral particles, such as sand, silt, and clay, give soil its texture.
- Topsoil is the most productive soil layer.
- Ten tonnes of topsoil spread evenly over a hectare is only as thick as a one Euro coin.
- Natural processes can take more than 500 years to form 2 centimetres of topsoil.
- Roots loosen the soil, allowing oxygen to penetrate. This benefits animals living in the soil. They also hold soil together and help prevent erosion.
- A fully functioning soil reduces the risk of floods and protects underground water supplies by neutralising or filtering out potential pollutants and storing as much as 3750 tonnes of water per hectare.

Water:

How much water do you use? - Statistics from the UK

- 1/3 of household water is used to flush the toilet
- 7.5 to 26.5 litres
- Bath 80 litres
- 5 minute shower (not power shower) 35 litres
- Brushing teeth with tap running 6 litres/min
- Brushing teeth with tap off 1 litre
- Dripping tap 140 litres/week

75 % of the earth is covered with water.

97 % of earth's water is in the oceans. Only 3 % of the earth's water can be used as drinking water. 75 % of the world's fresh water is frozen in the polar ice caps.

There is the same amount of water on earth as there was when the earth was formed. The water that came from your tap could contain molecules that Neanderthals drank...

Human brains are 75% water.

A person can live without food for more than a month but can only live without water for approx. one week.

More than 2 billion people on earth do not have a safe supply of water.

A quarter of the world's population is without safe drinking water.

A dairy cow has to drink 4 gallons of water to produce 1 gallon of milk.

Even at rest skin your skin can lose up to half a litre of water into the atmosphere every day, and during hot weather it will lose even more.

The air that we breathe out is saturated with water, through this alone we can each lose about one third of a litre of water every day.

http://eusoils.jrc.it/projects/soil_atlas/Key_Factors.html ;
www.njawwa.org/kidsweb/waterfacts/waterfacts.htm ; <http://www.scottishwater.co.uk> ;
<http://www.lenntech.com/water-trivia-facts.htm> ; <http://www.devon.gov.uk/drought.pdf>