

# WATER & LOCAL COMMUNITIES

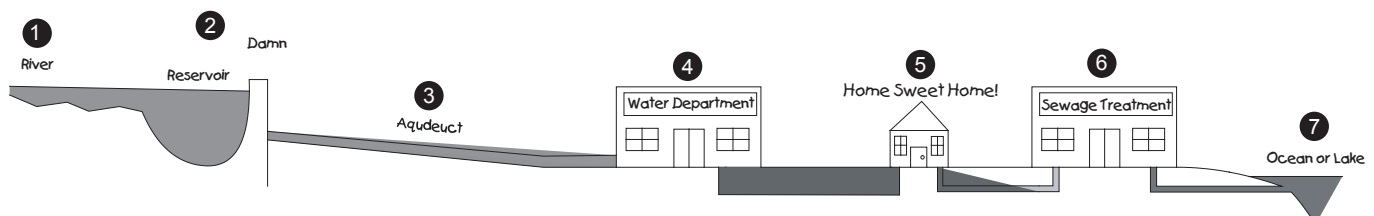
## How does water come to your house?

The origin of the water in your local community typically comes from a large flowing river or lake. From the river, the water travels through a series of aqueducts, to a public water supplier for treatment, and finally to your home. Some smaller communities get their water directly from groundwater sources such as a well.

## The long journey to your house

The water that you use to brush your teeth, take a shower, and make tea makes a long journey from a river or lake. Here's how many people get water to their houses:

- 1 Water collects in a **river**.
- 2 Water is then corralled by a **dam** and creates a **reservoir**. Reservoirs are used to store water.
- 3 From the dam the water travels in aqueducts toward a public water supplier. Aqueducts are thousands of years old and played a big part in creating the great ancient city of Rome!
- 4 Once water arrives at a **public water supplier**, the water is treated. This means that harmful particles are removed through filters and sometimes, chlorine is added to help kill harmful bacteria.
- 5 Safe water enters the home!
- 6 Most water that leaves your home goes to a **sewage treatment plant**. The water or sewage is treated so it contains less harmful bacteria. The water flows back into the environment in a large lake or ocean. It also filters back into the environment as reclaimed water.
- 7 Treated water enters the ocean or a lake where it can be safely absorbed into the environment.



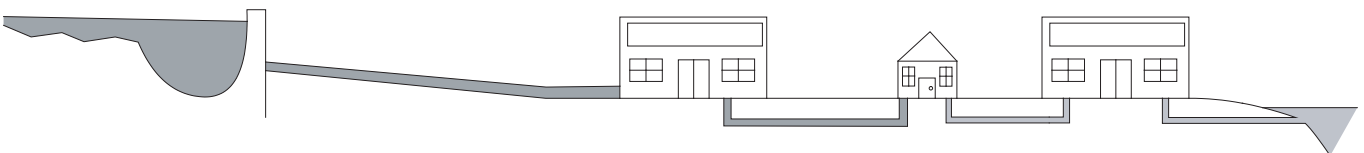
# Water

Q O D B F F B Q M J Y T K K F  
V N S P D O C M R O O N X G Q  
C R X L R P A P C X R E D G H  
N O I T A M A L C E R M D A V  
B Q O O N K N I T A Q T A Q D  
M X T K V V T C A Q D A L C N  
Y J B P Y R U B H F A E E E Y  
W X V J X D E N T O M R P S O  
G A Q K E B D S A N X T E Z K  
Y O T U W O Y R E C Y C L E D  
O N Q E O J Z G K R X J I S S  
F A I M R E R S F N I X L P Y  
P X U S J T G O K B H W T Q B  
G M Y T V L M J M V E Q R O I  
J D K L P E O O R X Q U V A O

## WORD BANK

Reclamation  
Recycle  
Water  
Reservoir

Dam  
Treatment  
Aqueduct



# Water Conservation

Most of the world's water is in the seas and oceans and can't be consumed by humans because it has a high level of salinity. This water is usually referred to as salt water. In contrast, the water that you have for everyday use, fresh water, is only a small amount of the total water found on Earth.

Since most of the water available on Earth can't be consumed by humans, it is important for us to conserve water. Water conservation is a way of using less water for our daily activities as well as finding more uses for it. For example, many people let the water run from their faucet while they're brushing their teeth. The only time that they actually use the water is for rinsing. During the time they are brushing their teeth the water is running and is not of any practical use. The smart way to approach this would be to turn the faucet off until the person is ready to rinse his or her mouth. This simple act saves lots of water; especially when you add the amount of water saved over a period of one year.

Along with individuals, cities have also found ways to conserve water through a recycling process called **water reclamation**. This is a program that uses treated water from a sewage treatment plant to water grass at city parks and golf courses. This reclaimed water is safe for watering grass but not quite safe for drinking. This enables the city to save water because it does not have to use its freshwater supply.

*There are several strategies for saving water. Can you think of ways to conserve water in your house or community?*

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