

Texas Groundwater Protection Committee

Groundwater Facts & References

Groundwater provides an estimated*

- | <u>Nationwide</u> | <u>Texas</u> |
|---|---|
| • 23% of all freshwater withdrawals | • 62% of all freshwater withdrawals |
| • 42% of agricultural use (mostly for irrigation) | • 78% of agricultural use (mostly for irrigation) |
| • 33% of the public water supply withdrawals | • 28% of the public water supply withdrawals |
| • 98% of drinking water for the rural population | • >99% of drinking water for the rural population |

**From the United States Geological Survey, the Texas Water Development Board, and the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality*

In addition:

- Ninety percent of Texans depend on public drinking water supplies. Twenty percent of that supply, 1,210 million gallons per day, is from groundwater, serving over 5,398,000 Texans.
- There are 14,051 active public water supply wells in Texas ranging in depth from 3 to 5,407 feet.
- Nine major aquifers and 21 minor aquifers supply 62% of all the water used in the state.
- Also, 2,230,000 Texans rely on groundwater from their own wells for their drinking water and use 257 million gallons per day.
- The quality of Texas' groundwater is generally good, and after the required disinfection, meets the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's safe drinking water standards without additional treatment.

Only 2.5% of the water on the earth is fresh. Of this small amount, 68.9% is glaciers, 30.8% is groundwater, and lakes and rivers make up only 0.3% (<http://earthobservatory.nasa.gov/Study/WeighingWater/>).

For more information on groundwater visit:

- The Texas Groundwater Protection Committee (TGPC) at <http://www.tgpc.texas.gov>
 - TGPC Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) at <http://tgpc.texas.gov/frequently-asked-questions-faqs/>
- The Ground Water Protection Council at <http://www.gwpc.org/>
- The Groundwater Foundation at <http://www.groundwater.org>
- The National Ground Water Association (NGWA) National Groundwater Awareness Week at <http://www.ngwa.org/Events-Education/awareness/Pages/default.aspx>
- The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) Water Resources of the United States at <http://water.usgs.gov> and the USGS publication *Estimated Use of Water in the United States in 2010* at <http://pubs.er.usgs.gov/publication/cir1405>
- The Texas Water Development Board publication *2017 State Water Plan* at <http://www.twdb.texas.gov/waterplanning/swp/2017/index.asp>