

Texas Groundwater Protection Committee

Groundwater Facts & References

Groundwater provides an estimated*

<u>Nationwide</u>	<u>Texas</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 29% of all freshwater withdrawals• 64% of agricultural use (mostly for irrigation)• 39% of the public water supply withdrawals• 99% of drinking water for the rural population	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 55% of all freshwater withdrawals• 73% of agricultural use (mostly for irrigation)• 20% of the public water supply withdrawals• >99% of drinking water for the rural population

**United States Geological Survey (USGS), National Ground Water Association (NGWA), Texas Water Development Board (TWDB), and Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ)*

In addition:

- Ninety five percent of Texans depend on public drinking water supplies. Twenty percent of that supply, over one billion gallons per day, is from groundwater, serving almost six million Texans.
- There are nearly 14,000 active public water supply wells in Texas ranging in depth from 12 to 5,400 feet.
- Nine major aquifers and 22 minor aquifers supply 55% of all the water used in the state.
- Also, 1,320,000 Texans rely on groundwater from their own wells for their drinking water and use 137 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% (<https://earthobservatory.nasa.gov/features/WeighingWater>).

For more information on groundwater visit:

- Texas Groundwater Protection Committee at <https://www.tgpc.texas.gov/>
- Ground Water Protection Council at <https://www.gwpc.org/>
- Groundwater Foundation at <https://www.groundwater.org/>
- NGWA National Groundwater Awareness Week at <https://www.ngwa.org/get-involved/gwaw>
- USGS Groundwater Information by Topic at https://www.usgs.gov/special-topic/water-science-school/science/groundwater-information-topic?qt-science_center_objects=0#qt-science_center_objects, its *Estimated Use of Water in the United States in 2015* at <https://pubs.er.usgs.gov/publication/cir1441>, and its *Water Use in the United States* at <https://www.usgs.gov/mission-areas/water-resources/science/water-use-united-states>
- TWDB Historical Water Use Estimates at <https://www.twdb.texas.gov/waterplanning/waterusesurvey/estimates/index.asp> and its *2022 State Water Plan* at <http://www.twdb.texas.gov/waterplanning/swp/2022/index.asp>