

PENNSYLVANIA WATER FACTS – (Appendix D)

Compared to other states, Pennsylvania is a relatively “water-rich” state.

Pennsylvania wetlands cover about 404,000 acres (1.4% of the state). Nearly half of these wetlands occur in the northeast and northwest corners of the state.

97% of the wetlands are dominated by vegetation.

2% of the wetlands are associated with lakes.

1% of the wetlands is associated with rivers and streams.

Water Sources

Pennsylvania’s **surface water** includes 65,000 miles of streams and more than 2,400 lakes, reservoirs, and ponds.

Approximately 47 trillion gallons of **ground water** lie in the soil and rock of our state.

There are over a million **wells** in Pennsylvania.

In Pennsylvania, 41% of the population gets its water from ground water sources.

In 1995, the total **withdrawal** of surface and ground water in Pennsylvania was about 9.68 billion gallons per day.

In an average year, 42 inches of **precipitation** fall to replenish water supplies.

Pennsylvania Drinking Water Sources – 1995 (population = 12,071,810)

59% Public – surface water

25% Private – ground water

16% Public – ground water

Public vs. Private Water Supplies

Public

Serves approximately 8.4 million people
Variety of ground and surface water sources
Routine water testing required
Required by law to meet drinking water standards

Private

Serve approximately 3.6 million people
More than 95% ground water sources
Water testing and treatment are voluntary

Pennsylvania Water Usage -

What is Pennsylvania's Water Used For?

Percentages of Total Surface and Ground Water Withdrawn in Pennsylvania (1995) for Various Uses

| | |
|---------------------------------|-----|
| Thermoelectric power generators | 61% |
| Industrial / commercial | 18% |
| Public Supply | 16% |
| Mining | 3% |
| Domestic Customers | 2% |
| Agricultural | 1% |

Typical Home Water Use in Pennsylvania

| | |
|------------------|-----|
| Toilet | 29% |
| Washer (laundry) | 22% |
| Shower | 18% |
| Faucets | 16% |
| Outside | 7% |
| Bath | 3% |
| Dish washer | 3% |
| Other | 2% |

