

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### Percentages of Total Surface and Ground Water Withdrawn in Pennsylvania (1995) for Various Uses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

