

*Water is precious.
Don't let it go
down the drain!*

“A person should not dump out water from his pit when others are in need [of the water].”

— Talmud Bavli Yevamos 39



Although water is seemingly abundant, the amount of fresh water is not.

- Over 70% of our Earth's surface is covered by water, but 97.5% of all water on Earth is salt water, leaving only 2.5% as fresh water.
- Less than 1% of the world's fresh water (~0.007% of all water on Earth) is accessible for direct human uses. This water is found in lakes, rivers, reservoirs and those underground sources that are shallow enough to be tapped at an affordable cost.
- This small amount of available water is regularly renewed by rain and snowfall, and is therefore available on a sustainable basis.

High quality drinking water is critical for the health of humans everywhere.

- Human beings use water for drinking, recreation, agriculture, industry and the ecosystems upon which our life depends.
- Reduced water quality and quantity decreases the availability of water for these purposes.
- Poor water quality also increases the financial cost of water purification.
- Effects on water quality are cumulative: multiple sectors of human society impact our water.

Water is not equally distributed.

- Of the very small amount of water that is usable by humans, approximately 20% is in the Great Lakes of North America and another 20% in the Russian Lake Baikal.
- The remaining 60% of available water (~0.004% of all water on Earth) exists as river systems, small lakes and ponds, and groundwater.

The quality and quantity of available water is affected by:

- human-caused changes to the water cycle in groundwater, lakes and rivers, and precipitation
- agricultural, residential and industrial pollutants
- the balance of water use and conservation.

Water is scarce worldwide.

- One billion people do not have access to safe drinking water.
- Nearly 3 billion do not have adequate water sanitation.
- An estimated 5 million people die each year due to diseases caused by waterborne pathogens found in water that is either poorly treated or not treated at all.

Water and Israel

- The depletion of water resources, along with decreases in water quality, is endangering Israel's water supply.
- The Coastal Aquifer is seriously compromised by chemical and microbial pollutants, salination, nitrates, heavy metals, fuels and toxic organic compounds.
- 82% of the wells that supply water to the Tel Aviv area are contaminated with chlorinated volatile organic compounds, which are suspected carcinogens.

Simple (but important) Actions

- ☆ Turn off the faucet! Don't let it run while washing, brushing teeth, lathering dishes.
- ☆ Don't use bottled water. Filter the water coming from your tap.

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