

# Cleveland water...

**FIRST ESTABLISHED IN 1856**, the Cleveland water system is one of the oldest in the country. Today it covers a 640 square mile service area. It is the largest water system in the state of Ohio and among the 10 largest in the US. Around the clock, Cleveland Water's 1,200 employees deliver safe drinking water to 1.5 million people in the City of Cleveland and 72 surrounding suburbs.

During the past 20 years, the Division has made over \$1 billion in infrastructure investments in the water system. Cleveland's water rates are among the least expensive in the nation, while also rating among the highest in quality. Cleveland's

drinking water costs less than other human necessities such as electricity, natural gas or gasoline and in Cleveland a gallon of tap water costs less than a penny. For more about Cleveland's water system, visit [www.clevelandwater.com](http://www.clevelandwater.com). 💧

## History and Development

**TODAY'S WATER** workers inherit a long history of stewardship over one of Cleveland's most precious assets – it's water supply. What today is known as the Cleveland Water Division was created in 1853 by Clevelanders voting to establish a water system to serve the rising population of the time. The taps were turned on in 1856 and the water has continuously coursed through an ever expanding network of pipes under Cleveland and the region. The past one hundred and fifty years witnessed many engineering marvels, advancements in the treatment of water and at least one invention – the Garrett A.

Morgan gas mask used to rescue workers trapped underground in the building of a tunnel to collect water from Lake Erie. The Twentieth Century saw the first use of chlorine and later the addition of fluoride. Four major water treatment plants were conceived and built by 1958 to serve a city population that blossomed to nearly a million people in the 1950's. The two outlying plants, Crown and Nottingham targeted the growing suburban population. By the end of the century, all four plants were undergoing major capital improvements and upgrades to ensure a reliable high quality water supply for future generations of Clevelanders. 💧

## Health—

High quality water is still the best drink for sports, exercise, or life in general.

**FORGET ABOUT** all the fancy drinks and liquids touted for replenishing your body fluids during sports or exercise. Good tasting, high quality water does the job better than any of the higher priced substitutes. Yes, plain water replenishes body fluids faster than any other liquid you can drink. The beverages sold for sports purposes, including juices, have a sugar content and sugar slows the absorption of fluids by the body. You should also drink water during any lengthy sporting or exercising period. You should consume at least 8 ounces every twenty minutes during exercise and, contrary to some beliefs, it is good to drink water prior to and right after exercise.

**Another tip:** Drink cool water. It is absorbed quicker than warm water. 💧

## Water Facts

### Science

- Fresh water is less than 1% of the total water on the earth
- Our Lake Erie provides 127 trillion gallons of fresh water!
- Next to oxygen, water is the most vital element to continued life. Without water, people die in about seven days.
- Water is such a fundamental component of life that astronomers and planetary researchers base probability of life on other planets almost solely on whether or not water is or has ever been present.

### Usage

- Sixty to seventy gallons of water per day are used per person for kitchen, laundry, bathing, sanitary uses and other uses in the home.
- The average American consumes 1/2 to 1 gallon of water per day, including juices and water used in cooking food.

### Health

- The human body is made up of 70% water.
- Most people get two thirds of the water they need from their diet.
- Water leaves the stomach five minutes after consumption.
- The people of the United States now consume more soft drinks than they do water! 💧

Vital to Our Region's Quality of Life.

[www.clevelandwater.com](http://www.clevelandwater.com)



## Your Home Prevent Costly Leaks

A **DRIPPING** faucet can lose 50 gallons of water a week, enough to fill a bathtub over 100 times in a year. Here's how to look for leaks in your home.

- Find Your Water Meter
- Read the meter at bedtime and in the morning
- Calculate the difference
- Look for leaks

If you do find a leak, please call our Customer Service Department at 216-664-3130. You will then you need to call your local certified plumber to come out and fix the leak. 💧

## More Water Facts

### About water use and saving water:

- Humans use more and more water each year.
- Americans use five times the amount of water that Europeans use.
- Humans daily use about 190 litres (50 gallons) of water.
- Baths use less water than a typical shower. Soaking in a partially filled tub will use less water than a short shower.
- Less than 1% of the water treated by public water systems is used for drinking and cooking.
- Bottled water can be up to 1000 times more expensive than tap water and it may not be as safe.

### About water as a raw material:

- It takes 5,680 litres (1,500 gallons) of water to process one barrel of beer.
- It takes 450 litres (120 gallons) of water to produce one egg.
- To process one chicken we need 44 litres (11.6 gallons) of water.
- To process one can of fruit or vegetables we need 35 litres (9.3 gallons) of water.
- About 25,700 litres (6,800 gallons) of water is required to grow a day's food for a family of four.
- It takes 7,000 litres (1,850 gallons) of water to refine one barrel of crude oil.
- To manufacture new cars 148,000 litres (39,000 gallons) of water are used per car. 💧

If you would like to learn more or wish to have someone speak to your organization, please contact our speakers bureau at 216-664-2444 ext.5676.



## Economy Top Water Users in Cleveland

- International Steel Group
- CMHA
- Ford Motor Company
- Cleveland Clinic
- First Gov
- Dominion
- Nestle
- Alcoa
- Case Western Reserve University
- Cleveland Metroparks
- Cleveland Metropolitan School District
- Coca-Cola Enterprises 💧