

Imagine going to get a drink of water and discovering that the faucet is dry; or jumping into the shower to cool off on a steamy hot day and discovering that there's no water. It's alarming that at the projected rate of population growth, humanity will use up more than 70 percent of all accessible freshwater by 2025. We use water to irrigate our crops, to produce hydroelectric power, and to manufacture products. We think there's plenty of it—in oceans, lakes, rivers, and streams. The remaining 3 percent is freshwater—and most of that is locked up in ice caps and glaciers. We need water for cooking, bathing, transportation, and recreation. Most of the water on our planet (97%) is salt water stored in oceans. In fact, less than 1 percent of the planet's water is usable freshwater. We eat aquatic plants and fish. The water we are using now is the very same water that the dinosaurs used millions of years ago. It is simply recycled over and over again. Water is essential to people in more ways than we might think. Water is indispensable for human health and well-being. Most of us simply take water for granted. But this is not the case. There will never be any more water on Earth than there is now.