

## Only Tap Water Delivers **Quality of Life**

***Tap water is more than a convenience; it is central to our everyday lives.***

- Any measure of a successful society – low mortality rates, economic diversity, productivity, public safety – is in some way related to access to safe water.
- Tap water is so intricately part of our lives that we can hardly imagine a day without it. Without tap water ...
  - ... How would we rinse our produce, clean dishes and clothes, water plants and landscapes and wash our cars?
  - ... Where would we shower?
  - ... How many businesses would have to suspend operations or relocate entirely?
  - ... How would our institutions – from hospitals to firehouses to schools – function?
- Americans tap into about 341 billion gallons of tap water every day. Total water use (both indoor and outdoor) in a typical single-family home is 101 gallons per capita per day.

### **Did You Know?**

Only 3 percent of the tap water we use on a typical day is used for drinking. The rest goes for outdoor watering, bathroom uses, clothes washing, etc.

### **Hurricane Katrina underscores value of water**

A reliable water supply contributes to our quality of life in so many ways that it is difficult to fully measure. However, it is possible to get a sense by examining what can happen when disaster strikes.

- When Hurricane Katrina hit in 2005, more than 1,220 drinking water systems and 200 wastewater treatment facilities were damaged.
- With water service out, urban fires could not be extinguished.
- While bottled water provided emergency drinking water relief, people needed tap water service to clean out homes. Businesses could not return to normal operations until water service was restored.



**American Water Works  
Association**

Office of Public Affairs  
T 303.734.3410  
[www.drinktap.org](http://www.drinktap.org)