



My Water Footprint Stats **Sample Answers**

Instructions

Part 1: Calculating My Water Footprint and Collecting Data

Go to Watercalculator.org and click the Find Your Footprint button to estimate your water use. Don't worry if you don't know all the answers precisely—just consider your habits and select the choices that most accurately reflect your typical behavior in the various categories. When you are finished, do not close the page! On the last page where you see your total water footprint, scroll down to get more data about the water use choices you selected. Use that information to complete the chart below.

Water Footprint Stats from WaterCalculator.org

of household members you recorded: 1

Category	Your Result (Gallons/Day)	U.S. Average (Gallons/Day)
Indoor Water		
shower	11	11
bathtub	2	2
bathroom sink	6	3
toilet	14	14
kitchen sink	6	7
dishes	3	1
laundry	10	10
greywater system	0	-25
Outdoor Water		
lawn & garden	0	72
rain barrel	0	-2
swimming pool	0	23
car washing	0	1
Virtual Water		
driving	5	5
electricity	33	30
shopping habits	291	583
paper	-3	-3
plastic	0	-1
bottles & cans	-8	-8
fabrics	0	-52
diet	939	1063
pet food	133	48
Total	1,442	



My Water Footprint Stats, continued

Part 2: Analyzing My Water Footprint

Use the information you noted on the previous page to analyze your water footprint calculator estimates.

1. How well do you think the calculator estimated your water usage? Explain.

I don't really know! I have never taken the time to estimate how much water I use precisely, but I do think the results seem reasonable. They show that I use less water than the national average, and I think that's about right because I am careful about how much water I use, and I look for opportunities to reduce my overall water use.

2. From which category (Indoor Water, Outdoor Water, or Virtual Water) did you use the most water?

Virtual Water

3. Did any of the results surprise you? Explain.

Yes. I did not expect that my largest category by far would be diet. I was also very surprised to see that pet food was so high in water use.

4. What changes could you make to reduce your water footprint? Hint: In your Water Footprint Calculator results, click the Tips button next to areas that require the most water for some ideas.

My highest categories were diet and pet food, so it seems reasonable to look at how I could reduce these. I think I could make a big impact by having at least two meat-free days per week. I could also make pet food for our dogs.
