
GROUNDWATER: YOUR HEALTH AND YOUR BUSINESS

The average Canadian uses 350 litres (80 gal.) of household water every day.

Think about the importance of having enough clean water. Your family's health depends on it, and so does your rural-based business. Every living thing - humans, plants and animals - needs water to survive. Good well stewardship goes a long way toward ensuring safe and reliable water supplies for you, your neighbours and future generations.

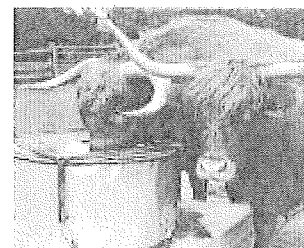
In eastern North America, rural residents and farming operations rely primarily on groundwater to meet their needs. In many areas groundwater is the only water source.

Groundwater accumulates from precipitation (rain, snow or sleet) and is stored beneath the surface of the earth. It fills cracks, pores and crevices of underground materials.

The alternative is surface water, which is stored on the earth's surface in oceans, lakes, ponds, rivers, ditches, ice-caps and wetlands.

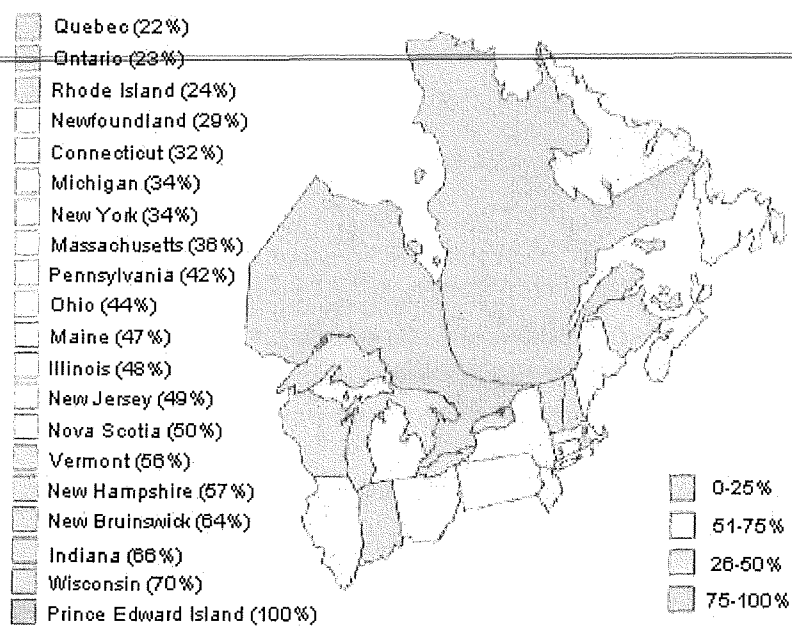
As a water source, groundwater is preferred. It requires minimum treatment, the need for costly pipelines is eliminated, temperature and quality are usually uniform and, properly managed, the supply is dependable.

No one "owns" groundwater: it's a shared resource that we all enjoy and have a duty to protect.



Farming operations need a fresh, daily, dependable supply of drinking water for many purposes.

IS THERE ANY GOOD GROUNDWATER LEFT?



This shows the percentage of water use from ground water sources in eastern North America.

Ground water is a renewable resource. In Eastern North America, we have an abundant supply of good groundwater. Rainfall and melting snow replenish the water we draw from wells. The earth stores and protects an immense underground supply of groundwater.