

Water consumption coefficients

Water consumption coefficients are the ratios of water consumed to water used. For example, if a household receives 100 litres of water per day from the water network and discharges 80 litres, this means that the household consumes 20% of the water it uses.

Water consumption coefficients vary with climate and other characteristics. It might be useful to study the water consumption coefficients in the particular country or territory where water accounts are being compiled.

If the water consumption coefficients are unknown, the following coefficients can be used as rough preliminary approximation:

Water use category	Water consumption coefficient
Households	20%
Agriculture	60% - 80%
Manufacturing	10% - 15 %
Thermoelectricity	1% - 5%
Hydroelectricity	0%

(Source: Based on U.S. Geological Survey (USGS).- Consumptive Water-Use Coefficients for the Great Lakes Basin and Climatically Similar Areas.- 2007 <http://pubs.usgs.gov/sir/2007/5197/>)