



Unitywater

Natural Water Cycle

H2O-hhh you're so old!

The water you used to brush your teeth this morning is older than your grandma. In fact, it is as old as the earth.

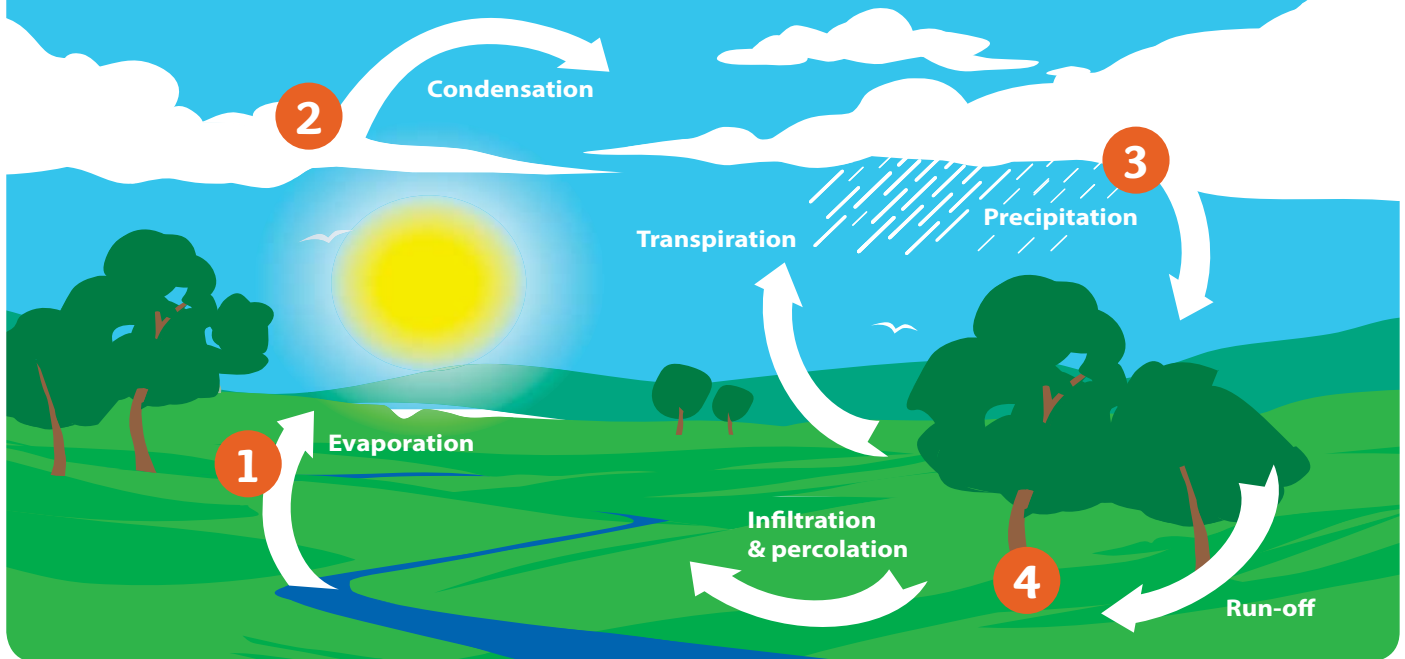
No new water is ever made. The same water cycles through the earth again and again as part of the water cycle.

The water cycle describes how water moves through the land, ocean and air as a liquid, gas and solid.



The Natural Water Cycle

The natural movement of water, without human intervention.



The natural water cycle consists of four main processes:

1. Evaporation and Transpiration – Liquid changing to vapour

Evaporation occurs when water in oceans, lakes and rivers warms and turns into a gas, rising to the air. Plants release water into the air in a process called transpiration.

2. Condensation – Gas changing to liquid

When the water vapour cools, it condenses in the air forming clouds, fog or mist.

3. Precipitation – Liquid or solid water falling to earth

Eventually the clouds become too heavy and the water falls back to the earth as rain, hail, sleet or snow.

4. Infiltration, percolation and run-off – Liquid water absorbing into the earth

The water that falls to the earth flows into waterways (run-off), or it can absorb into the ground (infiltration) or aquifers and underground water pockets (percolation).

