

## Sources of Water



About three-fourths of the earth's surface is covered with water. The various sources of water on the earth are rainwater and surface water, including river water, lake water, seawater and groundwater.

**Rainwater:** Rainwater is considered the purest form of naturally occurring water. However, gases like sulphur dioxide and nitrogen dioxide given out from the exhausts of vehicles, factories, etc., mix with air making rainwater acidic.

**Surface Water:** On the earth's surface, water exists as snow, river water and seawater.

**Snow:** Water is found in the frozen state as snow.

**River Water and Lake Water:** The snow melts and changes into liquid water and flows into the lakes and rivers. Rainwater also fills the rivers, lakes, and ponds. Water in rivers, lakes, and ponds is not fit for drinking. It may contain germs and other soluble impurities. If consumed, it may cause waterborne diseases like typhoid, gastroenteritis, diarrhea, etc.

**Underground Water:** During the summer season or in case of failure of rainfall, people depend on the water from underground sources for domestic and agricultural purposes.

Rain water gets collected in the soil by seeping into the gravel and rocks at the bottom. The excess amount of water moves deeper into the ground and fills the spaces in the rocks. This is known as groundwater. The level of groundwater is known as the water table.

**Aquifer:** The rainwater that has collected in the empty space in the porous layer of rock is known as an aquifer. The water remains there because below it is a hard layer of rock which prevents water from moving further downwards.