

Water volumes - how much water?

Unit	Litres	Kilolitres	Megalitre	Gigalitre
1 litre (L)	1L	0.001 KL		
1 Kilolitre (KL)	1 000 L	1 KL	0.001 ML	
1 Megalitre (ML)	1 000 000 L	1 000 KL	1 ML	0.001 GL
1 Gigalitre (GL)	1 000 000 000 L	1 000 000 KL	1 000 ML	1 GL

Litre - L

- Amount of water that can fit into a 10cm x 10cm x 10cm cube. i.e. 10cm³
- Many drinks, such as milk are sold in 1L containers

Kilolitre - KL

1000 Litres

- Amount of water that fits into a 1m x 1m x 1m cube. i.e. 1 cubic metre, 1m³
- Amount of water equivalent to standard car trailer
- A fast flowing tap can use up to a kilolitre in about an hour

Megalitre - ML

1,000,000 litres – one million litres

- Amount of water that fits into a 10m x 10m x 10m cube, i.e. 1 000 cubic metres or 1 000m³
- Amount of water that fills approximately half an Olympic –size swimming pool
- Farmers are supplied with water in megalitres
- Darwin River Dam can hold 259 000 ML – approximately half the volume of Sydney Harbour

Gigalitre - GL

1,000,000,000 litres – one billion litres

- Amount of water that fits into a 100m x 100m x 100m cube. i.e. 1 000 000 cubic metres or 1 000 000m³
- Water flowing in rivers is measured in gigalitres
- Average Daly River dry season flows at Ooloo Crossing is around 25 GL
- Volume of Lake Argyle in Kununurra, Western Australia is 10 700 GL, 18 times the size of Sydney Harbour

Example:

Volume in litres (L):
1 234 567 800 L

Volume in kilolitres (KL):
1 234 567.8 KL

Volume in megalitres (ML):
1 234.5 ML

Volume in gigalitres (GL):
1.2 GL