

# Fact sheet What is a megalitre?



## Understanding megalitres

There are many ways a dam's capacity to hold water can be measured. We can measure:

- the length of the dam wall
- the size of the catchment area
- the deepest point in the dam and/or
- the total megalitres (ML) of water the dam can hold.

At Seqwater, we measure the size of our dams by calculating the volume of water it can hold in megalitres (ML).

Wivenhoe Dam can hold 1,165, 000 ML at Full Supply Level.  
Somerset Dam can hold 380,000 ML at Full Supply Level.

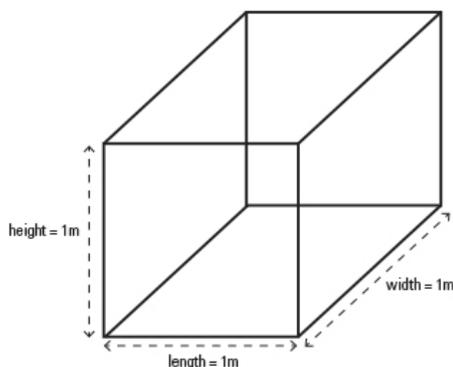
### What makes up a megalitre?

A cubic metre (m<sup>3</sup>) is the volume of a cube.

1 metre (m) x 1 metre (m) x 1 metre = 1m<sup>3</sup>.

One cubic metre contains 1,000 L of water.

1,000 cubic metres equals 1 ML.



### Did you know?

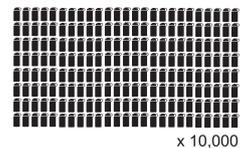
- A typical cup contains 250 ml. It would take 4,000,000 cups to make up 1 ML.
- It would take 1,000,000 1L milk bottles to make 1ML.
- A bucket of water contains about 10 L. There are about 100,000 buckets in 1 ML.
- A standard bath contains about 200 L. There are about five baths in 1 m<sup>3</sup>. 1 ML could hold about 5,000 baths.
- An average backyard suburban pool measuring 8m x 4m x 2m equals 64 m<sup>3</sup>. The pool would contain just over 0.06 ML of water - not even reaching 1 ML!

Compare these measurements to our largest dams - Wivenhoe and Somerset. We can store more than a million megalitres in Wivenhoe alone!

### Metric units



ml = millilitre  
1 water bottle = 500ml



x 10,000



1,000 ml = 1 litre  
2 water bottles = 1 L

1,000 cubic metre = 1 megalitre  
2 million water bottles = 1 cubic metre



1,000 L = 1 cubic metre  
2,000 water bottles = 1 cubic metre

x 100