

Water Conservation Suggestions for Commercial Entities

General Suggestions:

- Increase employee awareness of water conservation.
- Seek employee suggestions on water conservation; locate suggestion boxes in prominent areas.
- Conduct contests for employees (e.g. posters, slogans, or conservation ideas).
- Install signs encouraging water conservation in employee and customer restrooms.
- When cleaning with water is necessary, use budgeted amounts.
- Read water meter weekly to monitor success of water conservation efforts.
- Assign an employee to monitor water use and waste.
- Determine the quantity and purpose of water being used.
- Determine other methods of water conservation.
- Provide table signs urging water conservation.
- Serve water only when requested by the customer.

Exterior Areas:

- Water landscape only when needed; two to three times a week is usually sufficient.
- Stop hosing down sidewalks, driveways, and parking lots.
- Wash autos, buses, and trucks less often.
- Avoid plant fertilizing and pruning that would stimulate excessive growth.
- Remove weeds and unhealthy plants so remaining plants can benefit from the water saved.
- In many cases, older established plants require only infrequent irrigation. Look for indications of water need, such as wilting, change of color, or dry soils.
- Install soil moisture overrides or timers on sprinkler systems. Time watering, when possible, to occur in the early morning or evening when evaporation is lowest.
- Make sure irrigation equipment applies water uniformly. Investigate the advantages of installing drip irrigation systems.
- Mulch around plants to reduce evaporation and discourage weeds.
- Remove thatch and aerate turf to encourage the movement of water to the root zone.

- Avoid runoff and make sure sprinklers cover just the lawn or garden, not sidewalks, driveways, or gutters.
- Avoid watering on windy days.

Kitchen Area:

- Turn off the continuous flow used to clean the drain trays of the coffee/milk/soda beverage island; clean the trays only as needed.
- Turn dishwasher off when not in use. Wash full loads only.
- Replace spray heads to reduce water flow. If necessary use ponded water. Use water from steam tables to wash down cooking area.
- Avoid using running water to melt ice or frozen foods.
- Use water conserving ice makers.
- Recycle water where feasible, consistent with state and county requirements.
- Recycle rinse water from the dishwasher or re-circulate it to the garbage disposer.
- Presoak utensils and dishes in ponded water instead of using a running water rinse.
- Wash vegetables in ponded water; do not let water run in preparation sink.
- Use water from steam tables in place of fresh water to wash down the cooking area.

Bar:

- Avoid using running water to melt ice in the sink strainers.

Laundry Facilities:

- Reprogram machines to eliminate a rinse or suds cycle, if possible, and not restricted by health regulations.
- Reduce water levels, where possible, to minimize water required per load of washing.
- Wash full loads only.
- Evaluate wash formula and machine cycles for water use efficiency.

Pools:

- Channel splashed-out pool water onto landscaping.
- Lower pool water level to reduce amount of water splashed out.
- Use a pool cover to reduce evaporation when pool is not being used.
- Reduce the amount of water used to clean pool filters.

Cafeteria Area:

- Turn off the continuous flow used to clean the drain trays.
- Turn dishwasher off when not in use. Wash full loads only.
- Use water from steam tables to wash down cooking area.
- Do not use running water to melt ice or frozen foods.
- Use water-conserving ice makers.

Exterior Area:

- Inventory outdoor water use for landscaped areas.
- Water landscapes only when needed. Two-to-three times a week is usually sufficient.
- Water in the early morning or evening.
- Make sure that water does not run into the streets or alleys.
- Stop hosing down sidewalks, driveways, and parking lots.
- Use time controllers on sprinkler systems.
- Do not water on windy days.