

# RESTAURANTS

## WATER USE EFFICIENCY IDEAS



### GENERAL SUGGESTIONS

Increase employee awareness of water use efficiency.

Seek employee suggestions on water conservation; locate suggestion boxes in prominent areas.

Conduct contests for employees (posters, slogans, or efficiency ideas).

Install signs encouraging water efficiency in all restrooms.

When cleaning with water is necessary, use budgeted amounts.

Read water meters weekly to monitor success of water use efficiency efforts and to help find leaks.

Assign an employee to monitor water use and waste.

Determine the quantity and purpose of water being used.

Provide table signs urging water conservation.

Serve water only when customers request it.

### BUILDING MAINTENANCE

Check water supply system for leaks and turn off any unnecessary flows.

Repair dripping faucets and showers and running or leaking toilets.

Install flow reducers and faucet aerators in all plumbing fixtures.

Reduce the water used in toilets by installing ultra-low-flush toilets.

As appliances or fixtures wear out, replace them with water-saving models.

Shut off water supply to equipment rooms not in use.

Minimize the water used for cooling equipment rooms not in use.

Minimize the water used in cooling equipment, such as air compressors, according to manufacturer recommendations.

Reduce the load on air conditioning units by shutting it off when or where it is not needed.

Insulate hot water pipes.

Avoid excessive boiler and air conditioner blow down. (Monitor total dissolved solids levels, and blow down only when needed.)

Tell clean-up crews to use less water for mopping.

Change window cleaning schedule from periodic to an on-call/as-required basis.

### KITCHEN

Turn off the continuous water flow used to clean the drain trays of the coffee/milk/soda beverage island; clean the trays only as needed.

Turn dishwasher off after use. Wash full loads only. Replace spray heads in dishwasher to reduce water flow.

Use water from steam tables to wash down cooking area.

Do not use running water to melt ice or frozen foods.

Use water efficient icemakers.

Recycle water where feasible, consistent with State and county requirements.

Recycle rinse water from the dishwasher or recirculate it to the garbage disposal.

Presoak utensils and dishes in ponded water instead of rinsing them in running water.

Wash vegetables in ponded water; do not let water run in preparation sink.

Use connectionless food steamers.

### EXTERIOR

Convert from high water-using lawns, trees, and shrubs to water efficient landscapes, using plants that provide color and require less water. Design

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landscapes that need less water.

Inventory water used on landscaped areas.

Water landscape only when needed; two to three times a week is usually sufficient.

Wash cars, buses, and trucks less often.

Use a broom to clean sidewalks and driveways instead of hosing them down.

Avoid excessive landscape fertilizing and pruning that would stimulate excessive growth.

Remove weeds and unhealthy plants so remaining plants can benefit from the saved water.

In many cases, older, established plants require less irrigation. Look for indications of water-need such as wilt, change of color, or dry soil.

Install soil moisture overrides or timers on sprinkler systems.

Time watering for the morning or evening when evaporation is lowest. Do not water on windy days.

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 movement of water to the root zone.

Avoid runoff. Set sprinklers to cover only the lawn or garden, not sidewalks, driveways, or gutters.

Water in winter only during prolonged hot and dry periods. During spring and fall, most plants need about half

the water needed during the summer.

## FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

And to request this brochure in an alternate format, contact:

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