

WATER CONSERVATION IDEAS FOR COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS

GENERAL SUGGESTIONS

- Increase employee awareness of water conservation.
- Install signs encouraging water conservation in employee and customer restrooms.
- When cleaning with water is necessary, use budgeted amounts.
- Determine the quantity and purpose of water being used.
- Read water meter weekly to monitor the success of water conservation efforts.
- Assign an employee to monitor water use and waste.
- Seek employee suggestions on water conservation; locate suggestion boxes in prominent areas.
- Determine other methods of water conservation.

BUILDING MAINTENANCE

- Check water supply system for leaks.
- Turn off any unnecessary flows.
- Repair dripping faucets, showers, and continuously running or leaking toilets.
- Install faucet aerators where possible.
- Reduce the load on air conditioning units by shutting off air conditioning when and where it is not needed.
- Reduce toilet water by adjusting flush valves or installing dams and flapper mechanisms.
- Replace appliances or fixtures that wear out with water-saving models.
- Shut off water supply to equipment and rooms not in use.
- Minimize the water used in cooling equipment in accordance with manufacturer recommendations.
- Shut off cooling units when not needed.

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 AREAS

- 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 when watering landscaped areas.
- Stop hosing down sidewalks, driveways and parking lots.
- Use time controllers on sprinkler systems.
- Do not water on windy days.

For more information contact:

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or your nearest DEP regional office

For more information, visit www.dep.pa.gov.