

Water Conservation Strategies for Businesses

BE WATER SMART!



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Using water efficiently is a standard operating procedure for California businesses. And in a drought, it's even more critical for business owners to plan strategically to protect their investment, minimize the impact of potential water restrictions and higher water cost, and help conserve the community's water supply.

GENERAL TIPS

- Increase employee awareness of water-use efficiency.
- Seek employee suggestions on water conservation; locate suggestion boxes in prominent areas. Conduct contests (e.g. posters, slogans or efficiency ideas).
- Install signs encouraging water efficiency in customer and employee restrooms.*
- If you're a restaurant, use table signs to inform dining customers that you are conserving by serving water only upon request.*
- Read water meters weekly to monitor success of water efficiency efforts and to help find leaks.

BUILDING MAINTENANCE

- Repair dripping faucets and other plumbing, along with running or leaking toilets.
- Qualify for rebates by replacing old toilets and urinals with water-saving high efficiency models.*
- Replace other water-inefficient devices at your business with efficient models: dishwashers, showerheads, pre-rinse spray valves, faucets and clothes washers. Install flow reducers on all plumbing fixtures.
- Instruct cleanup crews to use less water for mopping and scrubbing.
- Shut off the water supply to equipment rooms not in use and minimize the water used for cooling those rooms.

OUTDOORS

- Adjust landscape irrigation based on soil type. For clay soil, water in short intervals. For other soil types, water less frequently but more deeply.
- Enlist your landscape maintenance company or property manager in your conservation campaign.
- Water early in the morning to reduce evaporation from heat and wind.
- Avoid runoff. Set sprinklers to cover only the lawn or garden – not sidewalks, driveways or gutters. Better yet, choose drip irrigation.
- Adjust your irrigation controller according to the seasons. Watering two or three times a week is usually plenty in summer. In winter, water only during prolonged hot and dry periods.
- Wash company cars and trucks less often and, when necessary, go to a car wash that recycles its wash water.
- Use a broom instead of a hose to clean pavement.

PLANT WISELY

- Mulch around plants, and keep grass a little taller, to reduce evaporation.
- Convert from water-guzzling lawns, trees, and shrubs to water-efficient landscapes*
- Plant in the fall when cooler conditions and more rainfall help establish new landscaping.



**Dublin San Ramon
Services District**

Water, wastewater, recycled water

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* DSRSD offers rebates and free-water-saving devices. For details, visit www.dsrdsd.com. To request free restroom mirror stickers and table signs, contact DSRSD Public Affairs at (925) 875-2239 or contact@dsrdsd.com.