>> Saving Water at Your Business



EDUCATE YOUR EMPLOYEES AND CO-WORKERS

Building an understanding among your employees and co-workers is important. Awareness of water scarcity issues and impacts of water conserving practices not only saves water, but also saves money (on operation and production costs). Educated employees will be able to identify problems before they become serious and can help think innovatively about ways to conserve or reuse water within the facility.

KNOW YOUR USAGE

Start With Reading Your Water Meter

By reading your water meter daily, weekly or monthly you can record your average water consumption. Water meters generally are located near the front of your property. It is suggested that the meters are read and recorded at the beginning of shutdown and at the recommencement of operations. Any water use during shutdown can be attributed to leaks and the source should be investigated. If your business has multiple buildings or processes, to help you fully understand your water use, you can install a separate meter at each location. Meter reading can be easily incorporated into your existing maintenance, security or cleaning routines.

Establish Your Baseline

Your water and sewer bills can help you understand your historical water use. To establish a baseline for your average daily consumption, divide your monthly bill by the number of days in that billing period. This baseline can only be used for comparison if business volumes do not fluctuate. For businesses that have seasonal or growth demands, measuring water use per unit of production is the best way to assess your water efficiency. For example if your business grows, your total water use may increase even if you have implemented water saving initiatives.

IDENTIFY AND FIX LEAKS

The easiest way to identify when leaks occur is to understand when your use rises above a base level of use for your operations. Once you have identified that there may be a leak on your property, you need to take steps to locate and repair the leak. To locate leaks:

- Look for any trend of increased usage that cannot be associated with increased business through sub-meters.
- Conduct regular inspections of equipment or areas where leaks could occur, like pipe-work joints, connections and
 fittings. Indications include dampness, rust marks or swelling boards. Significant leaks can often be detected by
 listening in the absence of other noise.
- Check equipment. Worn, old or poorly maintained equipment can waste significant amounts of water.
- Install monitoring or sub-meter systems that alert you when excessive flows or reduced pressures breach normal ranges.
- For concealed or subsurface pipe-work, leakage detection companies can employ techniques such as pressure testing, flow monitoring and echo correlation.

Information compiled and collected from EPA WaterSense (www.epa.gov/watersense) and California Urban Water Conservation Council (www.CUWCC.org)

MAXIMIZE THE EFFICIENCY OF YOUR COOLING TOWER

Consider eliminating "once-through" cooling of equipment with municipal water by recycling the water flow to cooling towers or replacing it with air-cooled equipment. High volumes of water can be lost as water vapor while performing the cooling function.

INSTALL WATER EFFICIENT EQUIPMENT

- Install dual-flush, ultra-low flow toilets and waterless urinals.
- Adjust flush valves on existing toilets.
- Adjust flow volume and run-time on existing faucets.
- Install faucet aerators and high efficiency shower heads.
- Use water efficient water filter systems and air-cooled ice makers.
- As appliances and equipment wear out, replace them with water efficient models.

MAXIMIZE THE USE OF WATER FOR CLEANING PURPOSES

Indoors

- Use brooms, squeegees and dry vacuum cleaners to clean surfaces before washing with water.
- Use washing equipment that has aerated spray nozzles equipped with shut-off valves.
- Fit hoses with high pressure, low volume nozzles with shut-off valves.
- Where possible, mop floors rather than hosing.
- Switch from 'wet' carpet cleaning methods, such as steam cleaning, to 'dry' or 'spot cleaning' (powder methods).

Outdoors

- Sweep parking and paved areas rather than hosing.
- Use a high pressure "Water Broom" instead of hosing hard surfaces.
- Reconsider the need to wash building exteriors or other outside structures.
- Reduce the frequency of cleaning external equipment and floors where possible.
- Change window cleaning schedule from 'regular' to 'as required' and use squeegees to clean the windows.
- Unless it's needed for operator safety, wash vehicles only when needed.

LANDSCAPE EFFICIENCY

The Potential for Conservation Savings in the Landscape is Tremendous

When designing new landscapes and modifying existing landscapes:

- Remove all unnecessary turf areas.
- Group plantings according to hydrozones for efficient & healthy irrigation.
- Utilize water wise plants and mulch.
- Install smart irrigation controllers and rain shut-off sensors where feasible.
- Eliminate irrigation misting install pressure reducers to achieve the appropriate pressures for efficient water distribution.
- Monthly-complete a walk through evaluation of the active irrigation system. Note where adjustments and repairs are necessary, make immediate corrections.
- Retrofit spray head nozzles to more efficient rotating, low precipitation nozzles.
- Become familiar with the irrigation tools available on the websites below. The Watering % Adjust is an easy way
 to change the amount of water your landscape receives based on the weather and season. The Watering Calculator can be used to customize an irrigation schedule for your property based on zip code, plant type and
 sprinkler type.

RESOURCES

The City is Here to Help With:

- Free indoor and outdoor water checkups for all business to evaluate water use and determine best options for saving water and money. Rebates may be available based on eligibility.
- Free restaurant table cards to signify that water is only served on request.
- Free hotel cards for saving water on washing linens and towels.
- Landscaping rebates for \$2,000-\$4,000 per site for replacing high water landscapes or irrigation materials with pre-approved water wise plants and irrigation. Pre-inspection is required before work is done.

MORE INFORMATION

- Information on free water checkups, rebates, hotel and restaurant cards, and more! Visit the City's Water Conservation website: SantaBarbaraCA.gov/WaterWise or call (805) 564-5460
- Countywide water conservation information is available at WaterWiseSB.org

