

Saving Water: Make it Your Business

Small Business Information Sheet

Saving water in your organisation makes good sense. You can reduce your costs, help to improve South Australia's sustainability and make a valuable contribution to reducing water use.

Simple steps to save water in your business

Keep an eye on your water meter

- Checking your water meter regularly will help you to identify any issues or leaks and repair them right away.
- It's a good idea to maintain a weekly or monthly graph of your water use and always investigate any rapid changes in consumption.

Regularly check and fix leaking taps, appliances and toilets

- An easy way to check for leaks is to take a reading of your water meter at night and check it again in the morning before any water has been used.
- If the meter reading is higher you have a leak that needs to be traced and fixed.
- Leaking toilets can be determined by adding a few drops of food colouring to your toilet cistern.
- Don't flush the toilet for at least one hour.
- If colouring shows up in the toilet bowl after an hour you have a leak.
- Cistern seal rubbers should be replaced approximately every two years before leaks occur.

Replace full flush toilets with more efficient dual flush systems

- A full flush toilet uses about 11 litres per flush compared to a dual flush toilet which can reduce each full flush to 4.5 litres and each half flush to 3 litres.
- If you have 100 users on a daily basis this could save up to 700kL annually.
- Ensure that the toilet bowl is compatible with the reduced flush volume of your new cistern.

Check that urinals are running efficiently

- Single stall urinals are the most efficient.
- Urinals that flush on sensors or timers can be very inefficient if set incorrectly.
- If sensors are required individual sensor flush units should be considered and the sensitivity required should be investigated to minimise unnecessary flushing where possible.
- Trough style urinals use on average about 2.2 Litres per bay, every flush.

Fit aerators and flow restrictors on taps

- Tap flow rates can be reduced by fitting aerators or flow restrictors (*When altering flow rates ensure restriction devices are compatible with your water heater and the Australian Standard for Plumbing and Drainage AS/NZS 3500 is adhered to*).
- Some taps have provision for external aerators which can reduce kitchen taps from 20Litres/min to 9Litres/min, saving up to 200kL annually based on 1 hour use a day.
- Aerators or flow restrictors can reduce bathroom taps from 20 Litres/min to 6 Litres/min.
- In line flow restrictors can be fitted on classic pillar cock taps or under basin restrictors can be used.

Further information

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- Flange flow controls can also be fitted to wall mounted taps and shower heads. To measure your current appliance flow rates simply use a jug / bucket and stopwatch and record volume against time elapsed.

Ensure tap ware and appliances have a high WELS rating

- To help you choose the most water efficient appliances, Australia has national mandatory water efficiency labelling and standards scheme (WELS).
- This applies to all showerheads, washing machines, toilets, dishwashers, urinals and some types of taps.
- In addition, the scheme includes minimum water efficiency standards for toilets and voluntary water efficiency labels on flow control devices.
- WELS labels display from 1 to 6 stars, the more stars the more water efficient the product. For further information on water efficient products visit the product registry on the WELS website <http://www.waterrating.gov.au/>

Replace inefficient pre-rinse sprays in restaurants, kitchens and canteens

- Pre rinse sprays can be replaced with high pressure sprays, which will generally reduce water usage from a standard 15-20L/min to 6L/min.
- Replacing one pre-rinse spray could save up to 250kL annually.
- A high pressure spray is more efficient and can also save staff time.

Place trigger nozzles on all hoses

- Trigger nozzles eliminate the possibility of wastage through hoses being left on, which can cost you up to \$500 per year if a hose is left on one day a week.
- Always ensure you and your staff are aware of the current restrictions on using outdoor hoses.

Evaporative air-conditioning units

- Regularly check for leaks and excessive bleed.
- As units age, performance can become compromised so regular maintenance and servicing is recommended to maintain their efficiency.

Use efficient irrigation systems

- Subsurface drip irrigation is an efficient form of watering and in some cases is better for your plants too.
- Always adhere to the current water restrictions.

Use rainwater where possible

- Rainwater can be plumbed into toilets, urinals, laundries and can be used for irrigation.
- For more information on rainwater tanks visit the [SA Water website](#).

Encourage staff to take these small steps that will save a lot of water

- Only use the dishwasher and washing machines when full
- Turn taps and hoses off when not in use
- Sweep and mop instead of hosing down floors
- Ensure any leaks are reported and fixed quickly

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