

Fact sheet



Saving Water: Make it Your Business Small Business Fact 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.
- 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 \$1660 per year if a hose is left on for an hour a day.
- Always ensure 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