

# A Checklist of Water Conservation Ideas For

# Hotels and Motels

This checklist provides water conservation tips successfully implemented by industrial and commercial users. This list has been revised from the original copy first published and distributed by the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power.

## General Suggestions

Increase employee awareness of water conservation.

Seek employee suggestions on water conservation; locate suggestion boxes in prominent areas.

Conduct contests for employees (e.g., posters, slogans, or conservation ideas).

Install signs encouraging water conservation in employee and customer restrooms.

When cleaning with water is necessary, use budgeted amounts.

Read water meter weekly to monitor success of water conservation efforts.

Assign an employee to monitor water use and waste.

Determine the quantity and purpose of water being used.

Determine other methods of water conservation.

## Building Maintenance

Check water supply system for leaks and turn off any unnecessary flows.

Repair dripping faucets and showers and continuously-running or leaking toilets.

Install flow reducers and faucet aerators in all plumbing fixtures whenever possible.

Reduce the water used in toilet flushing by either adjusting the vacuum flush mechanism or installing toilet tank displacement devices (dams, bottles, or bags).

As appliances or fixtures wear out, replace them with water-saving models.

Shut off water supply to equipment rooms not in use.

Minimize the water used in cooling equipment, such as air compressors, in accordance with the manufacturer recommendations.

Reduce the load on air conditioning units by shutting air conditioning off when and where it is not needed.

Keep hot water pipes insulated.

Avoid excessive boiler and air conditioner blow down. (Monitor total dissolved solids levels and blow down only when needed).

Instruct clean-up crews to use less water for mopping.

Switch from wet or steam carpet cleaning methods to dry powder methods.

Change window cleaning schedule from periodic to an on-call/as-required basis.

## Pools

Channel splashed-out pool water onto landscaping.

Lower pool water level to reduce amount of water splashed out.

Use a pool cover to reduce evaporation when pool is not being used.

Reduce the amount of water used to clean pool filters.

## Kitchen Area

Turn off the continuous flow used to clean the drain trays of the coffee/milk/soda beverage island; clean the trays only as needed.

Turn dishwasher off when not in use. Wash full loads only. Replace spray heads to reduce water flow. If necessary, use ponded water.

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.

Recycle water where feasible, consistent with state and county requirements.

Recycle rinse water from the dishwasher or recirculate it to the garbage disposer.

Presoak utensils and dishes in ponded water instead of using a running water rinse.

Wash vegetables in ponded water; do not let water run in preparation sink.

Use water from steam tables in place of fresh water to wash down the cooking area.

## Bar

Do not use running water to melt ice in the sink strainers.

## Laundry

Reprogram machines to eliminate a rinse or suds cycle, if possible, and if not restricted by health regulations.

Reduce water levels, where possible, to minimize water required per load of washing.

Wash full loads only.

Evaluate wash formula and machine cycles for water use efficiency.

## Exterior Areas

Convert from high-water using lawns, trees, and shrubs to xeriscape -- Landscape design incorporating plants providing beautiful color and requiring less water. In the future, design landscapes requiring less water.

Inventory outdoor water use for landscaped areas.

Do not water landscape every day; two-to-three times a week is usually sufficient.

Stop hosing down sidewalks, driveways, and parking lots.

Wash autos, buses, and trucks less often.

Avoid plant fertilizing and pruning that would stimulate excessive growth.

Remove weeds and unhealthy plants so remaining plants can benefit from the water saved.

In many cases, older, established plants require only infrequent irrigation. Look for indications of water need, such as wilt, change of color, or dry soils.

Install soil moisture overrides or timers on sprinkler systems.

Time watering, when possible, to occur in the early morning or evening when evaporation is lowest.

Make sure irrigation equipment applies water uniformly.

Investigate the advantages of installing drip irrigation systems.

Mulch around plants to reduce evaporation and discourage weeds.

Remove thatch and aerate turf to encourage the movement of water to the root zone.

Avoid runoff and make sure sprinklers cover just the lawn or garden, not sidewalks, driveways, or gutters.

Water in winter only during prolonged hot and dry periods (During spring and fall, most plants need approximately half the amount needed during the summer.)

For more information, contact: