

A Checklist of Water Conservation Ideas For

Restaurants

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.

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.

Provide table signs urging water conservation.

Serve water only when requested by customer.

Building maintenance

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

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 where 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 manufacturer recommendations.

Keep hot water pipes insulated.

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

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

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

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

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 in dishwasher to reduce water flow.

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 disposal.

Rinse utensils and dishes in ponded water.

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

Bar

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

Exterior Areas

Covert 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.

Water landscape only when needed; 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 stimulating 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.

Irrigation equipment should apply 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.

Do not water on windy days.

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: