

Water Saving Tips for Laundry and Linen Suppliers

GENERAL SUGGESTIONS

- Increase employee awareness of water conservation.
- Conduct contests for employees (e.g., posters, slogans, or conservation ideas.)
- Install signs in employee and customer restrooms encouraging water conservation.
- 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.
- As appliances and fixtures wear out, replace with water-saving models.

BUILDING MAINTENANCE

- Reduce the load on air conditioning units by shutting them off when not needed.
- Check water supply system for leaks and turn off any unnecessary flows.
- Repair dripping faucets, showers and continuously running or leaking toilets.
- 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.
- Keep hot water pipes insulated.
- Avoid excessive boiler and air conditioner blow down. Monitor total dissolved solids levels and blow down only when needed.
- Install flow reducers and faucet aerators in all plumbing fixtures whenever possible. Avoid excessive filter or softener back flush. Back flush only when needed.

OPERATIONS

- Recycle water where feasible consistent with state and county requirements.
- Reprogram machines to eliminate a rinse or suds cycle, if possible, and if not restricted by health regulations.
- Reduce water levels to minimize required water per load.
- Evaluate wash formula and machine cycles for water-use efficiency.
- Wash full loads only.

EXTERIOR AREAS

- Inventory outdoor water use for landscaped areas.
- Do not water landscape every day; only water when needed. If water restrictions are in effect, adapt your watering schedule accordingly.
- Make sure water does not run into the gutters, streets, or alleys.
- Use controllers on sprinkler systems.
- Wash autos, buses, and trucks less often.
- Do not water on windy days.
- Time watering, when possible, to occur in the early morning or evening when evaporation is lowest.

(SOURCE: Maryland Department of the Environment)