

Every Drop Counts

# Smart Water Use

[www.nysefc.org/smartwateruse](http://www.nysefc.org/smartwateruse)



## General Tips for Commercial Business

**Please note that these suggested measures are not intended to supersede more stringent federal, state, Tribal, or local health and safety regulations.**

### General

- Designate a water efficiency coordinator with the responsibility and authority for a water conservation program.
- Develop a mission statement and a plan.
- Educate and involve employees in water efficiency efforts.
- Make administration and other employees aware of the water conservation coordinator's function.
- Read water meter daily to monitor and report the success of water conservation efforts.
- Seek employee ideas for water conservation using contests, rewards, and suggestion boxes.
- Determine the quantity and purpose of water being used. Survey your facilities to identify water use needs throughout the facility.
- Identify the location of water needs and the quantity and purpose of water being used.

### Equipment

- As appliances and equipment wear out, replace them with water-saving models.
- Install flow reducers and faucet aerators in all plumbing fixtures, including sink faucets and showerheads, whenever possible.
- Use water-conserving ice makers. Eliminate "once-through" cooling of equipment with municipal water by recycling water flow to cooling tower or replacing with air-cooled equipment.
- Minimize the water used in cooling equipment in accordance with manufacturers' recommendations.
- Reduce the load on air conditioning units by shutting off air conditioning when and where it is not needed. Avoid excessive boiler and air conditioner blow down.
- Monitor total dissolved solids levels and blow down only when needed.
- Check water supply system for leaks and turn off any unnecessary flows.
- Discontinue water circulation pumping in unoccupied areas.
- Ensure return of steam condensate to the feed water tank for re-use.
- Keep hot water pipes insulated. Reduce the water used in toilet flushing by either adjusting the vacuum flush mechanism or installing toilet tank displacement devices (dams, bottles, or bags).
- Repair dripping faucets, showers and continuously running or leaking toilets.
- Shut off water supply to equipment rooms not in use. Turn off any unnecessary flows.

*continued*



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## Kitchens and Laundries

- Consider purchasing high efficiency equipment.
- Turn off dishwashers when not in use.
- Wash full loads only and select the appropriate washing cycle.
- Scrape rather than rinse dishes before washing. Use water from steam tables to wash down cooking areas.
- Do not use running water to melt ice or frozen foods.
- Handle waste materials in a dry state whenever possible.
- Use a rinse water recycle system. Reduce water levels, where possible, to minimize water required per load of washing.
- Evaluate wash formula and machine cycles for water use efficiency.
- Do not use running water to melt ice in the sink strainers.

## Outdoor Maintenance (including landscaping, pools and spas, turf management, and other outdoor water management issues)

- See the Tips for Outdoor Maintenance page for more information.