



Water Conservation for Schools and Public Buildings

General Suggestions

- Increase employee, faculty and student awareness of water conservation. Conservation brochures are available from the Board of Water Supply.
- Read water meter daily to monitor the success of water conservation efforts.
- Conduct contests for employees, students and faculty (e.g., posters, slogans or conservation ideas); locate conservation suggestion boxes in prominent areas.
- Install signs that encourage water conservation in restrooms and common areas.

Physical Plant - Building Maintenance

- Minimize the water used in cooling equipment, such as air compressors, in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations.
- Reduce the load on air conditioning units by shutting air conditioning off when and where it is not needed.
- Maintain insulation on hot water pipes.
- Check water supply system for leaks, and turn off any unnecessary flows. Repair dripping faucets, showers, and continuously running 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).
- Change window cleaning schedule from periodic to an on-call, as required basis.
- Install flow reducers and faucet aerators in all plumbing fixtures. As appliances or fixtures wear out, replace with water-saving models.

Cafeteria and Food Service

- 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 dishwashers off when dishes are not being processed and wash full loads only. Replace spray heads with water-saving spray nozzles.
- Presoak utensils and dishes in ponded water instead of using a running water rinse.
- Avoid thawing foods under running water by using other available alternatives, including microwave ovens.

- Wash vegetables in ponded water, do not let water run in prep sink.
- Minimize use of ice machines and adjust them to dispense less ice.

Pool

- Lower pool water to lessen the amount of water splashed out.
- Reduce the amount of water used to backflush pool filters.
- Use a pool cover to reduce evaporation when the pool is not in use.

Exterior Areas

- Wash autos, buses and trucks less often.
- Discontinue using water to clean sidewalks, driveways, loading docks, and parking lots. When cleaning with water is necessary, use budgeted amounts. When possible, use a broom or rake.
- Avoid landscape fertilizing and pruning that stimulate excessive growth. Remove weeds that will rob your plants of water and nutrients.
- 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.
- Limit landscaping additions and alterations. In the future, design for landscapes that require less water. Incorporate xeriscape (water management) techniques into the design.
- Install soil moisture overrides or timers on sprinkler systems. Time waterings, when possible, to occur in the morning when wind and evaporation are 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 in early spring to encourage the movement of water to the root zone.
- Begin a flexible watering schedule, watering only when needed and not on windy or rainy days.
- Avoid runoff, and make sure sprinklers cover just the lawn or garden, not sidewalks, driveways or gutters.

For more information, visit our website at www.boardofwatersupply.com, or contact the Board of Water Supply at 748-5041 