

LANDSCAPE

- o Avoid landscape fertilizing and pruning that stimulates excessive growth. Remove unhealthy plants so other plants can benefit from water saved.
- o Mulch around plants to reduce evaporation and discourage weeds.
- o Avoid runoff and make sure sprinklers water vegetation, not sidewalks or pavement.
- o Water only when needed and not on windy or rainy days.

WATER CONSERVATION:

Tips for

Health Care Facilities

and

Institutions

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Managing water supplies wisely is important in a comprehensive effort to cut costs and increase profits. Yet, through the experience of several dry summers, it is increasingly evident that money is not the only reason for implementing a water conservation program.

Water is a limited resource humans cannot live without. Planning for the future includes managing and conserving what we have today. Some of the following suggestions can be incorporated into normal operations while others are appropriate when water supplies are stressed from natural, technological or other human causes.

WATER CONSERVATION PROGRAM

- o Increase employee awareness of water conservation by explaining the importance of individual action.
- o Install signs and displays encouraging water conservation in restrooms and dining areas.
- o Read the meter daily to monitor the success of water conservation efforts.

BUILDING MAINTENANCE

- o As appliances and fixtures wear out, replace with water-saving models.
- o Install flow restrictors on showers and faucet aerators on sinks. Equip each toilet with a tank displacement device to reduce the amount of water used with each flush.
- o Check the water supply system for leaks and turn off any unnecessary flows. Repair any leaking faucets, showers, and toilets.
- o Change the window cleaning schedule from periodic to on-call as required basis.
- o Recover condensate from air-conditioning, refrigerator, freezer, and ice machine; use as make-up water or for irrigation.
- o Maintain insulation on hot water pipes.

KITCHEN AND CAFETERIA

- o Turn off the continuous flow used to clean the drain trays of the beverage island and instruct personnel to thoroughly clean only as needed.
- o Wash full loads in the dishwasher and recycle the rinse water.
- o Minimize use of the ice machines and adjust them to dispense less ice.

OTHER AREAS

Water required for film processing and single pass cooling in the x-ray department should be turned off when not in use and recycled if possible.

Overhaul faulty steam traps on sterilizers.