

# Waterwise Checklist



## Hostel and dormitory water conservation

This checklist provides water conservation options, and raises awareness of water issues. Specific information is available in the Waterwise Business series of Information Sheets .

### Hostel/dormitory occupants

The average person uses 200 to 260 litres of water indoors daily. Hostel and dormitory managers can encourage occupants to help conserve water by the following measures:

- Initiate an occupant and employee water conservation awareness program. Encourage input and ideas from staff and occupants.
- Promote water conservation. Increase awareness with bathroom mirror stickers and brochures with water-saving ideas.
- Encourage shorter showers.
- Use shower instead of bathing. Showers require less water than baths.
- Turn off taps in the bathroom and the kitchen when not in use.
- Don't leave water running when brushing teeth, shaving or cleaning contact lenses.
- Use the dual flush facility on toilets.
- Never use the toilet as a bin. Use alternative disposal means.
- Wash only full loads of clothes in washing machines.
- Wash only full loads of dishes in dishwashers. When washing dishes by hand, use a filled basin instead of running water.
- Keep a container of cold water in the refrigerator instead of running water at the tap until it cools.
- Provide information about where to report leaks, or water running in storm drains.

### Facility managers

- Develop a water management plan. Specific information is presented in Waterwise Business Information Sheet No 2 – Water Efficiency Program.
- Test for leaks in toilets by putting a few drops of food colouring in the toilet cistern.
- Inspect and repair all faulty and defective parts of taps and toilets.

- Install water saving aerators or spring-loaded valves on taps where appropriate.
- Install flow restrictors in taps where appropriate.
- Install water efficient showerheads.
- Alternatively install water flow restrictors in showerheads.
- Install dual flush toilets. If only replacing a limited number of toilets, replace heavily used fixtures located in high traffic areas first.
- Observe water restrictions when watering lawns and gardens.
- Consider hand watering or drip irrigation for garden beds.
- Water only when needed.
- Where possible, use alternative water sources to water plants (eg. rainwater tanks or garden bores.)
- Use mulch around plants and between rows to retain moisture.
- Sweep paths and driveways instead of hosing down.
- Limit vehicle washing.
- Do not wash down outside areas such as footpaths, patios, driveways, etc.
- Limit hours of operation of water-cooled air conditioners.
- Reduce water supply line pressure in order to reduce water consumption where practicable.
- If ice machines are used, inspect to see if they use onethrough cooling water. If so, replace unit with air-cooled system or recirculating water system.

### References

DPPEA FY02-08 – North Carolina Division of Pollution Prevention and Environmental Assistance.

### Further information

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