

# Waterwise Checklist



## Small hotel/guest house 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.

### Getting started with guest education/awareness

- Tell your guests about water restrictions that are in place.
- Provide posters and signs in bathrooms as water conservation reminders (stickers are available from the Water Corporation) with contact information on reporting leaks.

### Showers

- Encourage shorter showers (use shower timers). 9 to 27 litres can be saved for every minute shortened.
- Install low-flow showerheads of 'AAA' efficiency rating or better (9 litres/min).
- Alternatively install flow restrictors in shower taps.

### Toilets

- Never use the toilet as a bin. Provide alternative disposal means.
- Test for leaks by putting a few drops of food colouring in the toilet cistern.
- A leaking toilet can waste hundreds of litres a week.
- Limit flushing in automatic urinals.
- Install 6/3 litre dual flush toilets.

### Sinks

- Install tap aerators or flow restrictors of 'AAA' efficiency rating or better (9 litres/min).
- Do not leave water running while brushing teeth or shaving.

### Kitchen

- Don't use running water to thaw frozen foods. Defrost in refrigerator.
- Wash fruits and vegetables in a filled basin and not under running water.
- Scrape, rather than rinse, dishes and utensils before loading into dishwasher.

- Wash only full loads of dishes. (Saves approximately 20 litres per dishwasher load.)

### Laundry

- Wash full loads only. (Saves 60-100 litres per clothes washer load.)
- Set level controls (if available) to match load size.
- Install water efficient front loading models which use less water than top loading models.

### Landscaping/maintenance

- 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.
- Don't use water to clean pavements. Use a broom.
- Sweep paths and driveways instead of hosing down. A garden hose can use more than 30 litres per minute.

### Pool/spa

- Use a pool cover to reduce water loss due to normal evaporation.
- Repair any swimming pool leaks. (A 25 mm per day leak in a 5 by 10 m pool can waste approximately 450 kL per year!)
- If a pool is heated, reduce the water temperature. Warmer water evaporates more quickly.
- Shut down unnecessary fountains and waterfalls. The effect of aeration loses a significant amount of water to evaporation.
- Evaluate a pool's filter back-wash schedule. Reduce back washing to the minimum necessary without compromising swimmers' health and safety.
- Maintain proper chemical levels and adequate circulation time. Not only will your pool water be safer and cleaner, but you'll avoid the need to drain your pool or use excessive water to correct conditions of neglect.

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## Success story

A housing authority managing more than 1,296 units housing about 2,335 residents undertook water audits focusing on upgrading fixtures in more than 1,200 housing units that typically used 245,000 kL of water annually. The suggested toilet, sink and showerhead retrofits were estimated to save 89,000 kL of water per year and approximately \$68,000 in reduced water and energy costs. Simple payback periods ranged from 1.0 to 2.5 years.

## References

DPPEA FY02-09 – North Carolina Division of Pollution Prevention and Environmental Assistance.

## Further information

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