

Motel and Hotels

Books

Handbook of Water Use and Conservation by Amy Vickers, 2001.

4.5 Laundries and Laundromats. Pages 277-280.

- Place "save water" notices or table tents in hotel and motel guest rooms, urging visitors to save water by minimizing the amount of linen that needs to be laundered. For example, the city of Santa Fe, New Mexico, and the Santa Fe Lodgers Association provide cards for guest rooms encouraging visitors to forego daily linen changes. The card states: "Help save water. Laundering linens uses lots of water! Sheets and towels are customarily changed daily. However, if you feel this is unnecessary, please leave this card on your pillow in the morning. Your towels will be straightened, the bed will be made, but the sheets will not be changed. If you wish fresh towels, place the used towels in the tub. Thank you for helping our community conserve water."
- "It's a crazy thing to demand fresh sheets and towels every day. No one does that at home." --Patricia Griffin, President Green Hotel Association.
- An average sized hotel, comprising of 150 rooms can save about \$30,000 per year if 65% of its guests participate in its linen-reuse program.
- Some hotels are concerned that they might be perceived as "cheap" for asking guests to reuse their linens, but many have received positive feedback from customers who appreciate the environmental and cost benefits of not wasting.
- The laundry facility for seven Red Lion Hotels (now part of the Doubletree Hotel system) in the Portland, Oregon, area is saving more than \$40,000 from reduced water, sewer, and gas bills after installing a wastewater recovery and recycling system. The laundry achieved these savings by replacing its twenty year-old conventional, single-pass system with a pumped, closed-loop, three phase micro filtration and water recycling system. In addition to the cost savings achieved, the recycling system reduced carbon dioxide emissions by about 182 tons and is expected to extend the life of the facility's boiler equipment by 50%. The new system cost about \$200,000, yielding a simple payback period of 4.1 years. In addition, the hotel now asks guests who are staying than one night to agree not to have their sheets laundered every day.

4.6.1 Swimming Pools. Pages 282-284.

- About 95% of pool water lost to evaporation can be saved through use of a pool cover.
- A study of an athletic facility in Boston indicated that the evaporation and heat losses of a swimming pool normally kept at 84°F could be reduced by lowering the temperature to 80°F. The company saved \$2,350 in water and heating costs.

Web Resources

Hotel Water Conservation—A Seattle Demonstration

This study was conducted by Seattle Public Utilities. It is a report on a pilot program combining engineering and behavioral/educational approaches to reduce water use in hotels.

http://www.seattle.gov/util/stellent/groups/public/@spu/@csb/documents/webcontent/hotelwater_200407081359093.pdf

Green Hotels Association

The Green Hotels Association encourages, promotes and supports the “greening” of the lodging industry through proper management of natural resources.

<http://www.greenhotels.com/>

GREEN HOTELS: Opportunities and Resources for Success

Water-efficient practices use improved technologies that deliver equal or better service using less water. Water conservation encourages hotels to better manage how and when water is being used, addressing both the technical and human side of water management issues. It is estimated that by 2010, water use will increase to approximately 475 gallons per day for each room in high luxury facilities. However, in other accommodations, water use is still a cost and an important stress on the local environment.

http://www.zerowaste.org/publications/GREEN_HO.PDF

Best Management Practices

Restrooms and Guest Bathrooms

- Repair all leaks, including dripping faucets and showers and running or leaking toilets.
- Showerheads, faucets and toilets should be replaced with low-volume models.
- Replace or Retrofit old toilets (pre-1994) with toilet tank water displacement devices, such as toilet dams, bags, or weighted bottles.
- Install aerators to all plumbing fixtures.

Kitchen, Dining Room and Bar

- See Restaurant BMPs

Building Maintenance

- Check the water supply system for leaks, and turn off unnecessary flows.
- Shut off the water supply to equipment and areas that are unused.
- Check the pressure. Where system pressure is higher than 60 psi, install pressure-reducing valves.
- Shut off water-cooled air conditioning units when not needed, or replace water-cooled equipment with air-cooled systems.
- Insulate hot water pipes.
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Cleaning/Housekeeping

- Instruct cleaning crews to use water efficiently for mopping.
- Switch from "wet" carpet cleaning methods, such as steam, to "dry," powder methods.
- If you have to, powerwash paved surfaces. Do not use an open hose.
- Wash exterior windows with a bucket and squeegee rather than powerwashing.
- Change window cleaning schedule from "periodic" to "as required."

Laundry

- Wash only full loads.
- Evaluate the wash formula and machine cycles for efficiency. It may be appropriate to reprogram machines to eliminate a cycle.
- Consider upgrading to water-efficient washing machines. You will save water and energy.
- Lodging establishments should not change sheets more often than every four days for guests staying more than one night, except for health or safety reasons.

Pools & Spas

- Lower pool level to avoid splash-out. Water that is unavoidably splashed-out can be channeled onto the landscape or back into the pool.
- Reduce the water used to back-flush pool filters.
- Check the pool regularly for cracks and leaks (including pressure grouting, liners and drain valves) and make repairs regularly.

- Use a pool cover to reduce evaporation and heat loss when the pool is not being used.
- Lower the pool temperature, if possible—particularly when the pool is not being used.

Outdoor

- Apply water, fertilizer, or pesticides to your landscape only when needed. Look for signs of wilt before watering established plants.
- Core aerate and apply compost annually for established lawns.
- Install an automatic rain/wind shut-off device on sprinkler systems.
- Consider using low-volume irrigation, such as a drip system.
- Make sure sprinklers are directing water to landscape areas, and not to parking lots, sidewalks, or other paved areas.
- Use mulch around landscape plants to reduce evaporation and weed growth.
- Be sure all hoses have shut-off nozzles.
- When it snows, pile plowed snow around the landscape rather than a paved surface. Not only do you benefit from the slow percolation of the snowmelt, but you don't lose any parking space.
- Use a broom to clean sidewalks and driveways instead of hosing them down.
- Avoid landscape fertilizing and pruning that would stimulate excessive growth.

Other

- Increase employee awareness of water use efficiency.
- Install signs encouraging water efficiency in restaurants, restrooms and guest rooms.

More BMP Lists

CA Dept. of Water Resources: <http://www.owue.water.ca.gov/docs/Hotels.pdf>

Denver Water:

http://www.denverwater.org/cons_xeriscape/conservation/best_management_practices.html

NC Dept. of Environment & Natural Resources:

<http://wrrc.p2pays.org/industry/hotels.htm>

SW Florida Water Management District:

<http://www.swfwmd.state.fl.us/conservation/waterwork/checkhotel.htm>

City of Greeley: <http://www.greeleygov.com/cog/PageX.asp?fkOrgId=44&PageURL=hotels>

Other ICI Resources

Strategy to Involve the Commercial, Industrial and Multifamily Sectors in Water Conservation

http://www.seattle.gov/util/stellent/groups/public/@spu/@csb/documents/webcontent/commercial_200407081359135.pdf