

Nursing, Retirement, and Assisted Living Complexes

There is a lack of information available regarding water conservation programs and projects for nursing home or assisted living facilities. One reason may be that there are no unique water appliances or fixtures used in these facilities.

There is information about these facilities and who will occupy them that can help conservation professionals develop guidelines and programs for water conservation facility retrofits or new facilities.

In an effort to save money and meet consumers' preferences, many state governments are moving public long term care dollars away from nursing facilities and into community based alternatives that provide comprehensive care in an environment that is more home-like than the typical nursing home¹.

If this is the trend, it would be possible for those who promote water and energy efficiency to "sell" the importance of conservation as a tool to keep operation and maintenance costs low.

The move to develop more home-like facilities will result in a change in the type of water appliances and fixtures used. Nursing homes tend to have commercial equipment while the more home-like facilities will likely have individual bathrooms and kitchenettes with more home-type appliances and fixtures.

Another consideration is the customer. The literature on assisted living and other forms of housing services indicates the population served by and in need of these services is dominated by single women (widowed, unmarried, divorced) in their early 80's².

With nursing home and assisted living water-using appliances and fixtures being the same as those used in the commercial and residential sectors, **the Best Management Practices will be the same for the following nursing home and assisted living facility appliances, fixtures and processes:**

Indoor

Kitchen/Dining Room Areas: dishwashers, sinks, food and drink preparation, food disposals, icemakers

Bathrooms: toilets, bathtubs, showers, sinks

Laundry: washing machines, sinks

Outdoor

Landscape Irrigation (possible golf courses)

Pools

Water features (fountains, etc.)

¹ Maine Rural Health Research Center, April 2000

² Lewin – VHI, 1996