

Appendix G: Suggested Best Management Practices for Commercial Water Customers

It is strongly encouraged that each business, in adopting Best Management Practices (BMP), addresses water-use issues relating to that specific business, industry, or work place. The most effective BMPs result from employee involvement and provide for training and verification of implementation.

General

- Generally examine water use, both indoors and out of doors, to eliminate waste
- Educate employees, contractors, and any other facility user about the importance of water conservation
- Conduct regularly scheduled water audits of both indoor and outdoor water appliances, features, and plumbing
- Become a partner in the EPA Water Alliance for Voluntary Efficiency (EPA-WAVE) program

Indoors

- Use washing machines and dish washers only when full, or adjust water levels accordingly
- When installing or replacing appliances, install water-efficient appliances
- Regularly inspect, maintain, and repair boiler systems. Consider installing a condensate return line, if it does not already have one
- Regularly inspect, maintain, and repair cooling towers systems. Increasing the cycles of concentration can significantly reduce water usage.
- Review historical water usage for your facility. Analyzing several years of consumption data will often identify undiscovered leaks or other process inefficiencies
- Identify all single-pass flows in the facility. These flows are often associated with such equipment as cooling for pumps, compressors, ice machines, air conditioners. Consider replacing these processes with ones that re-use or re-circulate process water where appropriate

Outdoors

- As new landscapes are developed or as established landscapes are renovated, consider how water will be used, and make choices regarding irrigation, plants, and design that use water efficiently and wisely
- Examine irrigation systems, indoor plumbing and water-using appliances, to ensure that those systems do not leak and are operating efficiently on a regularly scheduled basis; make needed repairs or adjustments
- Adjust or replace sprinkler heads to eliminate over-spray on hardscape, fences, and buildings

- If not utilizing an irrigation-only meter, follow the recommended watering schedule (see Appendix A) unless directed to follow Watering Schedule B (see Appendix B)
- If utilizing an irrigation-only meter, stay within irrigation target (see Appendix c)
- Avoid watering, whenever practicable, between the hours of 10 am and 6 pm
- Hand water brown or dry spots; don't over-water the entire lawn
- Turn off irrigation systems when wind or rain is forecast
- Water flowers, shrubs, and trees separately from lawns
- Utilize positive pressure nozzles on all hoses
- Avoid using water to wash or clean walks, drives, and gutters
- Mulch flowers, shrubs, and trees to retain soil moisture