

Appendix D:

Hotel and Lodging Water Conservation Best Management Practices

Water conservation needs to be a part of our daily activities. The hotel and lodging industry offers many opportunities to save water without compromising the quality of the visit or public health and safety. The average-sized hotel, with 150 rooms, can save about \$30,000 a year if 65 percent of their guests participate in a linen-reuse program. Every employee needs to understand the importance of conservation, and be educated on water saving practices and how their job affects water use. Make conservation part of their job and part of the day to day work environment.

Consider using this simple three step process

- Educate and involve all employees on water conservation
- Locate all water-using sources (dishwashing machines, wash sinks, cooling water, HVAC, etc in your facility) and examine for leaks, check for inefficiencies, and conduct repairs
- Identify and implement water conservation practices

Icemakers

- Replace old icemakers with new air-cooled, water efficient model. The useful life of an icemaker is about five years
- Use ice flake machines rather than ice cube machines
- Use softened water in ice cube machines to minimize bleed-off
- Collect spent cooling water from water-cooled icemakers and use it for non-potable purposes such as mopping floors

Laundry

- Operate laundry equipment with full loads only
- Reduce water levels, if possible, for partial loads
- Replace or modify existing conventional laundry equipment (e.g., washer-extractors) to reduce water use
- Install a computer-controlled rinse water reclamation system
- Install a wash and rinse water treatment and reclamation system
- Install a continuous-batch washer
- Install an electrically generated ozone laundry system
- Adjust chemicals or washer program to reduce the number of wash and rinse steps
- Avoid excessive backflushing of filters or softeners; backflush only when necessary
- Place “save water” notices in guest rooms
- Encourage your guests to forego daily linen changes for multiple night visits
- Replace conventional washers with high-efficiency, horizontal axis machines

Building Maintenance

- Replace water-cooled refrigeration units with air-cooled units
- Repair leaks and malfunctioning equipment promptly
- Install on-demand, point-of-use hot water dispensers where feasible, eliminating the need to run faucets to produce hot water

- Replace worn-out fixtures with water-conserving models
- Install low flow toilets and faucet aerators in restrooms

Exterior Areas

- Water landscapes only as needed
- Remove turf from hard to water areas such as islands in parking lots
- Sweep loading docks, sidewalks, and driveways rather than hosing them off
- Install rainfall sensors on automatic irrigation systems
- Mulch around plants to reduce evaporation and discourage weeds
- Do not water on windy or rainy days
- Use low angle nozzles when feasible
- Avoid using overhead sprinklers or sprays in narrow areas, islands, and medians to eliminate overspray onto hardscape surfaces
- Set watering times to reflect plant type
- Install pressure reduction valves where pressure exceeds optimum operating levels (30 psi for spray heads and 60 psi for rotor heads)
- Utilize pressure compensating and reducing equipment when appropriate