

Saving Water: Make it Your Business Cleaning Practices

Most commercial operations have a daily or weekly equipment clean requirement to maintain hygiene standards or good housekeeping practices. Many cleaning processes consume large volumes of water which with some simple changes can be made significantly more efficient.

Adopt water saving practices

Procedural changes are often the key to minimising water use during cleaning shifts while not compromising hygiene standards or the desired level of cleanliness. Often the reduction of excessive water use for cleaning purposes will reduce the amount of pollution you're sending to sewer and/or stormwater systems.

Behavioural changes include:

- Talk to your staff about the potential to minimise water use and review the current cleaning procedures on site.
- Educate cleaners and staff about the impact of excessive hosing, e.g. increased flow and waste to sewer and/or stormwater systems.
- Cleaning procedures should be defined clearly and regular audits are recommended to ensure procedures are followed and changes are successfully implemented.
- Transition to dry clean up use brushes, vacuums, scrapers, squeegees or any other instrument to reduce the requirement for wet cleaning practices (except when it is conducted to protect public health and safety).
- Dry sweep or vacuum floors and collect contaminants instead of hosing.
- Develop dry cleaning procedures to contain & collect spill materials.
- Use scrapers or squeegees to remove food residues from processing equipment prior to commencing wet cleaning procedures.
- To avoid floor wash down use dry absorbents and then sweep or vacuum these areas.
- Inspect your site for the source of spills and leaks which may be increasing your wash down frequency.
- Use contamination control floor mats to reduce the volume of waste and dirt tracked throughout your business.
- Consider dry powder carpet cleaning methods instead of steam cleaning or other wet carpet cleaning methods.

Outdoors:

- Dry sweep or vacuum parking, loading and forecourt areas.
- Dry sweep or vacuum all hard surface areas .e.g. paths, paved areas.
- Water must not be used to wash paved or concreted areas decking, walls or roofs of a building unless it is necessary to do so to protect public health, ensure safety of people using the area, ensure the health and welfare of animals using the area or in case of accident, fire or other emergency .
- Alter the window cleaning schedule from regular to as required and ensure windows are cleaned from a bucket filled directly from a tap. Consider using a commercial car wash that recycles water. Please remember that runoff from car washing is not permitted to go to stormwater.
- Water must not be used to wash a vehicle except by means of a commercial car wash or a bucket filled directly from a tap.

Further information

(08) 7424 1336

www.sawater.com.au

businesswatersaver@sawater.com.au

- Commercial vehicles exceeding 5 gross tonnes require a water restriction [permit](#) to allow washing of these vehicles via a [high pressure low volume trigger](#) operated equipment.

Equipment modification

- Undertake regular inspections of the facility for leaks or equipment malfunctions.
- Use trigger spray nozzles on hoses and consider the use of high pressure low flow washers to clean more efficiently.
- Review washing equipment and where practical install automatic shutoff valves and replace inefficient spray nozzles with aerated sprays.
- Reduce flow to supply hoses and pressure washers by installing inline flow restrictors.
- Check flow rates on all equipment and adjust to the manufacturer's recommendations.
- Use solenoid valves or timers to shutoff water when processes are not in operation.
- Check the angle of stationary sprays and ensure they are aimed correctly.
- Review the dispersal of sprays and ensure they are adjusted for maximum effect.
- Undertake a review of your cleaning chemicals. Often changing the type of chemical can alter your concentration requirements and therefore the volume of water required.

Upon altering any cleaning procedure it is imperative that an assessment is made to ensure changes will not adversely affect hygiene standards or the quality of the produced product.

Further information

For more information on water conservation solutions within your business please contact us via email businesswatersaver@sawater.com.au

To measure your current appliance flow rates simply use a jug / bucket and stopwatch and record the water volume against time elapsed

For further information on water efficient products visit the product registry on the WELS website www.waterrating.gov.au

*When altering flow rates ensure restriction devices are compatible with your water heater and the Australian Standard for Plumbing and Drainage AS/NZS 3500 is adhered to.

Based on City West Water Ltd 'Water conservation Solutions Handbook' www.citywestwater.com.au

Further information

(08) 7424 1336

www.sawater.com.au

businesswatersaver@sawater.com.au