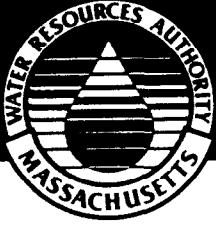


WATER CONSERVATION BULLETIN 5

RESTAURANTS



Excessive demand and below average rainfall have caused the Quabbin Reservoir - your source of water - to drop to unacceptably low levels in recent years. There is a pressing need for improved conservation efforts by all water users in order to ensure an adequate supply now and in the future. Reduced water use will also enable you to control your water, sewer and energy costs.

There is much that you can do to help. Begin with a thorough water audit to determine where, how, how much and how efficiently water is being used at your facility. In the weeks and months ahead, you can use this initial data to measure the success of your conservation efforts. (For your free Water Audit Handbook and sample audit report format, call 617-242-SAVE.)

An audit is a simple, inexpensive first step that will give you ideas about how water can be saved most quickly and easily. *So don't delay.* Even the most basic conservation measures - like fixing leaky toilets - will make a big difference.

Be smart about how you use water at work - and at home. Regardless of weather conditions or reservoir levels, water should always be treated as a precious natural resource.

Recycle and reduce water use wherever feasible, consistent with Mass. Department of Health requirements.



Kitchen area

- Turn off the continuous flow used to wash the drain trays of the coffee/milk/soda beverage island. Clean thoroughly as needed.
- Turn dishwashers off when dishes are not being processed. Wash full loads only.
- Check manufacturer's instructions to see if dishwasher spray heads can be replaced to reduce water flow.
- If possible, reuse the rinse water from the dishwasher as flush water in the garbage disposer unit.
- Presoak utensils and dishes in basins of water instead of a running water rinse.
- Thaw foods and wash vegetables in basins of water rather than under running water.
- Adjust ice machines to dispense less ice if ice is being wasted.
- Use water from the steam table in place of fresh water to wash down the cook's area.
- *Bar area:* Do not use running water to melt ice in sink strainers. Consider automatic shut-off faucets for bar sink.



Restrooms

- Repair leaking toilets, faucets and showers. *One leaky toilet can waste more than 50 gallons of water a day. A dripping faucet or shower can waste 75-1000 gallons a week!*
- Install aerators, spring-loaded valves or timers on all faucets.
- Reduce the water used in toilet flushing by:
 - installing toilet tank displacement devices (weighted bottles or dams).
 - retrofitting existing flushometer toilets with a water-saving diaphragm to save 1 gallon per flush. (Most flushometers use 5 gallons per flush.)
- Replace worn-out fixtures with water-saving models.
- Install code conforming 1.6 gallon-per-flush low-flow toilets.

As of March 2, 1989, the Massachusetts Plumbing Code requires the use of low-flow tank-type and floor-mounted flushometer toilets in all new or replacement installations.

- Encourage water conservation in all restrooms. (Mirror stickers are available from the MWRA.)

Building maintenance

- Check plumbing for leaks and turn off any unnecessary flows.
- Read water meters monthly to monitor the success of your conservation efforts.
- Avoid excessive boiler and cooling tower blowdown. Adjust blowdown rate to maintain total dissolved solids (tds) of 2000 parts per million (ppm) or higher.
- Install pressure-reducing valves where pressure is higher than 50-60 pounds per square inch.
- Replace water-cooled equipment with air-cooled systems.
- Shut off water-cooled air conditioner units when not in use.
- When cleaning with water is necessary, use budgeted amounts.
- Switch from wet or “steam” carpet cleaning methods to dry powder methods.
- Evaluate window cleaning schedule.

Landscaping & other outdoor water use

- Water in the early morning or evening when wind and evaporation are lowest. *Never water on windy, rainy or very hot days.*
- Water only when needed. One inch of water per week (rain plus supplemental watering) is plenty to sustain established lawns and landscaping.
- Wait 10-14 days before watering after a period of heavy rain.
- Install timers, and either tensiometers (soil moisture indicators) or rainfall sensors on sprinkler systems.

- Water uniformly and avoid runoff. Make sure sprinklers cover just the lawn or garden - not sidewalks, driveways or other paved areas.
- Limit lawn areas - grass needs a lot of water. Check with a landscaper about designs that require less water.
- Do not fertilize in the late spring or summer. New growth requires extra water.
- Mulch around plants to reduce evaporation and discourage weeds.
- *Raise mower blades in the summer to 2 1/2 - 3 1/2 inches. Longer grass retains more water and nutrients.*
- Be sure all hoses have shut-off nozzles.
- Check water pressure to see if a pressure-reducing valve would save on flow-per-minute.
- Investigate the advantages of installing a drip irrigation system to water flowers, shrubs and new plantings more efficiently. *It could save you 30%-70% of the water used by an overhead sprinkler system.*
- Sweep - never hose - sidewalks, driveways, loading docks and parking lots.
- Wash vehicles less often.



General suggestions

- Educate employees about the importance of water conservation. (Materials are available from the MWRA - call 617-242-SAVE.)
- Place a water conservation suggestion box in a prominent area.
- Serve water only on request. Use tabletop signs urging water conservation (available from the MWRA).

For further water conservation information, please call:

617-242-SAVE



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