

A**Ai Group Assistance:**

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WATER SAVING TIPS FOR INDUSTRIAL LAUNDRIES

Water Saving Tips

Efficient water use makes good business sense. There are many opportunities for our businesses to make simple changes to daily operations which will save significant quantities of water. These reductions will improve the efficiency of our businesses, increase our company profile, increase staff performance and save considerable amounts of money.

It is worth noting that industry as a whole is relatively efficient with its water use. Many organisations have made considerable reductions in their water demands and are reaping the benefits of their increased performance. We should use this good work and the forthcoming water restrictions as motivation to increase our performance even further.

The following are some simple tips that we can implement in our daily operations which will help save our organisations valuable resources and precious capital.

Industrial Laundries

- **Reuse:** Capture and reuse water where possible.
- **Cycling:** cycle up from light colours to darks throughout the day.
- **Rinse Water:** Reuse rinse water where possible.
- **Dosing:** Use low environmental impact detergents and chemicals (this will make the discharge water more suitable for reuse).
- **Chemicals:** Match chemical and detergent concentrations to the batch.
- **Grey Water:** Look for opportunities to use grey water in place of potable water for use in toilets, on gardens etc.
- **Cooling Towers:** Ensure regular maintenance to increase efficiency and reduce fouling.
- **Baffles:** Install baffles in rinse tanks to slow water distribution rate and reduce overflow waste.
- **Showers and Boots:** Install low flow fittings for showers, boot wash and other domestic wash down areas.
- **Toilets:** Install dual flush toilets to reduce water demand.
- **Chemicals:** Use chemicals more sparingly. This will save you money through reduced chemical use, reduce chemical dosing for trade waste demands and reduce trade waste costs associated with TDS levels.
- **Monitor:** Monitor water use and trade waste demands for each process and product. Develop a trend of water demand and trade waste as a percentage of product output. This will help to identify issues and areas to be targeted in a water management plan and also highlight the company's performance.
- **Material Flow:** Conduct a basic material flow diagram to identify which process or products use the greatest amounts of water and develop goals and targets to reduce demand. Measure water use with bucket and stopwatch to determine the water used for each process.

- **Maintenance:** Increase maintenance of machinery to reduce wasted water.
- **Cooling tower:** Increase cooling tower efficiency to reduce loss through blowdown and drift.
- **Cleaning:** Reduce and reuse water required for cleaning where possible.
- **Surface runoff:** Capture surface runoff where possible to be used as cleaning water or as a grey water substitute for cooling, toilets, gardens etc.
- **Water treatment:** Look at water treatment options if your business is water intensive and treat water for reuse if at all possible.
- **Leaks:** Fix all leaks as soon as they occur and maintain regular checks.
- **Dry Sweep:** Use sweeping, squeegeeing, vacuuming or shovelling solids prior to wash up to prevent product going to drain and elevated trade waste charges. Do not use hoses as brooms.
- **Reuse:** Look for water reuse opportunities where possible. For example, can rinse water be use for pre-wash water in another process. Can water used for cooling machinery, be used for cleaning? Can waste product be used by another organisation?

For more information please visit the Ai Group Website at www.aigroup.asn.au or speak to an Ai Group Resource Efficiency Adviser on 03 9867 0111.

Information about efficient use of resources can be found at the following websites:
Sustainability Victoria www.sustainability.vic.gov.au or EPA Victoria at www.epa.vic.gov.au

