

WATER SAVING TIPS FOR CONSTRUCTION

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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.

Construction

- **Water saving action plan:** Prepare a water saving action plan for your project that includes actions during construction, appliances and plumbing to be installed, reuse potential, landscaping and rainwater utilisation.
- **Filters:** Make sure that sediment, concrete, sand and rubbish does not end up going down the stormwater drain. Cover or filter stormwater inlets and drains.
- **Tenders:** Ensure that water conservation and the protection of water quality is included in all tender and contractual documentation.
- **Dry sweep:** Require workers to use a broom rather than a hose to clean paths and gutters. If water use is necessary, use high pressure hoses which are both water efficient and more effective cleaners.
- **Tools:** Use buckets of water to clean tools instead of running water.
- **High pressure cleaning:** Use high pressure hoses for cleaning where possible.
- **Cement Works:** Ensure cement works are not carried out on roads or paths so you avoid the need to wash the slurry away with water.
- **Silt Prevention:** Fence the site with temporary fencing (hording) and line it with hay bales. Geotextile silt fencing can also be used.
- **Erosion and sediment Control:** Install and maintain erosion and sediment control devices. These devices can reduce water velocities on site by redirecting runoff at regular intervals with bales, contours, baffles, and mounds or by retaining vegetation.
- **Maintenance:** Regularly clean and maintain all stormwater protection devices.
- **Stormwater reuse:** Capture and reuse stormwater runoff for site cleaning, truck washing and dust suppression.

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