

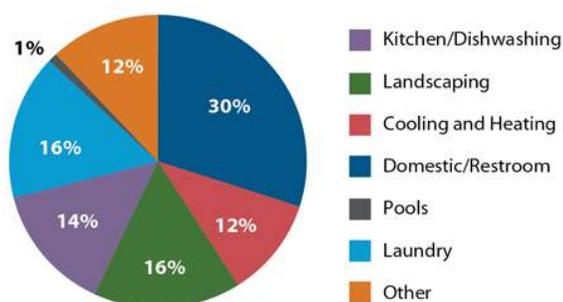


Saving Water in Hotels

Water used in hotels and other lodging facilities accounts for approximately 15 percent of the total water use in commercial and institutional buildings in the United States¹. With so many hospitality facilities, there are great opportunities to conserve water.

The largest uses of water in hotels and lodging facilities are restrooms, laundry operations, landscaping, commercial kitchens, and heating and cooling.

End Uses of Water in Hotels



Created by analyzing data from: New Mexico Office of the State Engineer, American Water Works Association (AWWA), AWWA Research Foundation, and East Bay Municipal Utility District.

THE BUSINESS CASE FOR WATER EFFICIENCY

Over the past 10 years, the costs of water and wastewater services have risen at a rate well above inflation. Business owners can expect these and other utility costs to continue to increase in order to offset the costs of replacing aging water supply systems.

Water use affects a hotel's operating costs and environmental footprint. Industry estimates suggest that implementing water-efficient practices in commercial



buildings can decrease operating costs by approximately 11 percent and energy and water use by 10 and 15 percent, respectively.²

High-performing water-using equipment and WaterSense labeled fixtures often use at least 20 percent less water than standard models. Hotel owners can also benefit by using water-efficient practices to improve operations and upgrading equipment. For example, instituting linen and towel reuse programs in guest rooms can help reduce the loads of laundry washed by 17 percent.³

Most importantly, environmental sustainability is a leading factor in purchasing decisions and customer demand. A TripAdvisor survey found that 79 percent of travelers look for eco-friendly accommodations. Adopting water-efficient practices also helps hotel owners meet local or customer requirements and earn recognition from programs that identify green hotels.

Putting Water Efficiency to Work

After upgrading its restroom fixtures with high-efficiency toilets, showerheads, and faucet aerators, a San Antonio, Texas, hotel is saving 7 million gallons of water and \$35,000 in water and sewer bills each year, with the added benefit of fewer maintenance calls from its 397 guest rooms. Visit www.epa.gov/watersense/commercial/casestudies.html for additional examples.

TOOLS FOR WATER-SAVING SUCCESS

WaterSense offers a number of resources to help hotels save water, energy, and money. These tools include:

- **Water Use and Savings Evaluation (WaterUSE) Tool and Water Assessment Worksheets:** Hotel operators and facility managers can use these tools to identify and prioritize cost-effective water efficiency projects and best practices specific to their hotel.
- **Case Studies:** WaterSense has hotel case studies on water management, sanitary fixtures, mechanical systems, commercial kitchens, outdoor water use, and education and outreach.
- **Technical and Outreach Webinars:** As part of the H₂Otel Challenge, WaterSense hosted a series of training webinars to help hotels assess, change, and track their water use. Each features a case study speaker discussing a water-saving project.
- **WaterSense at Work: Best Management Practices for Commercial Institutions and Facilities** is a compilation of water-saving best practices, many of which apply to hotels.

Below are suggestions from *WaterSense at Work* to save water in hotels. For more WaterSense hotel tools and training, visit

www.epa.gov/watersense/commercial/challenge_tools.

Reduce Restroom and Laundry Water



- Install WaterSense labeled faucets, showerheads, toilets, and flushing urinals where appropriate. These products have been independently certified to be at least 20 percent more water-efficient and perform as well or better than standard models.
- Upgrade or retrofit with water- and energy-efficient laundry equipment.
- Allow guests the option of reusing towels and bed linens to cut down on the amount of water used in laundry equipment.

Water Landscapes Wisely



- Design water-smart landscapes that provide beautiful surroundings while reducing water needed for irrigation.
- Improve irrigation efficiency by hiring a professional certified through a WaterSense labeled program to audit an existing system or design and install a new water-efficient system.
- Cut down on water loss from evaporation, wind, and runoff by replacing existing clock timers with WaterSense labeled irrigation controllers.

Make Kitchen Improvements



- Install WaterSense labeled pre-rinse spray valves. Replacing one with a WaterSense labeled model can save a typical commercial kitchen more than 7,000 gallons of water per year.
- Install ENERGY STAR® certified dishwashers, ice machines, steam cookers, or combination ovens where appropriate to reduce water and energy use by at least 10 percent. Look for efficient food disposal systems, steam kettles, and wash-down sprayers to use significantly less water.
- Consider replacing equipment that discharges water continuously, such as dipper wells or wok stoves, with more efficient models or turning this equipment off when not in use.

¹ Dziegielewski, et al. 2000. *Commercial and Institutional End Uses of Water*. American Water Works Association Research Foundation.

² 2009. *Water Use in Buildings SmartMarket Report*. McGraw-Hill Construction.

³ American Hotel & Lodging Association. Guideline #5. www.ahla.com/Green.aspx?id=24954.