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Water efficiency

Water efficiency - Wasted water is money down the drain!

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Eco-efficiency for the Marine Industry Fact Sheet – Boat Builders

Water efficiency is becoming an increasing concern for manufacturers throughout Queensland as greater pressure is placed on limited water reserves. Government bodies are now actively seeking to promote water efficiency and are encouraging water conservation strategies and incentives. Under the federal government's National Competition Policy,

every council in Australia has been advised to introduce a user-pays water pricing system to recover the full cost of supplying water and treating wastewater. Water will become more expensive, and reducing water consumption will become increasingly important.

Do you want to

- reduce how much you spend on purchasing water?
- lower your wastewater treatment and disposal costs?
- reduce impacts on nearby waterways?

Check to see if you are managing your water use efficiently

Washing down boats

Hoses and high pressure cleaners are generally used for washing down boats.

- Are all hoses switched off immediately after use? Fitting trigger controls on hoses can cost as little as \$20 and quickly pay for themselves. An automatic reel-up can help to protect the gun and hose, which prevents damage and unnecessary leaks.
- Do you use high pressure cleaners? High pressure cleaning can be time efficient and can reduce water use by up to 60% when compared with standard hoses.^[1] High-pressure cleaners generally operate at pressures from 1,000 psi to 3,000 psi (6,900 kPa to 21,000 kPa) and use between 8 and 21 litres per minute.^[2]

One hour of unnecessary hosing per day can waste between 470 kL and 940 kL of water each year, costing your business up to \$1,062 annually!^[3]

Amenities

Water use in amenities provides an opportunity to make significant water savings, often through simple low-cost measures. Practising water conservation in these areas sends a strong message to staff and the general public of your commitment to water conservation.

- Do you use AAA or higher rated mixer taps or flow restrictors on existing taps? Consider metering taps or taps with sensors for high-use areas.
- Do you use water-efficient (low flow rate/high velocity) shower roses?
- Have you installed dual-flush toilets or cistern volume adjusters?
- Have you considered replacing continual flush urinals with sensor-operated urinals?



Water appliance ratings^[4]

Rating	Level of water efficiency	Flow rates -basin taps (L/min)	Flow rates - showers (L/min)	Average flush volume - toilets (L)
A	Moderate	6 – 7.5	12 – 15	5.5 – 6.5
AA	Good	4.5 – 6	9 – 12	4 – 5.5
AAA	High	3 – 4.5	7.5 – 9	3.5 – 4
AAAA	Very high	2 – 3	6 – 7.5	2.5 – 3.5
AAAAA	Excellent	Not more than 2 with automatic shut-off	Not more than 6	Not more than 2.5



A new water rating scheme

The current AAAAA rating scheme will cease on 1 July 2006. All new products must then comply with the Water Efficiency and Labelling Scheme (WELS). The new WELS water rating label has two main features—a star rating that gives a quick comparative assessment of the model's water efficiency, and an estimated water consumption figure for the product based on its tested water consumption.

Labels will display from one to six stars, with more stars meaning the product is more water-efficient. A product labelled with a zero star rating is not water-efficient or does not meet basic performance requirements. See www.waterrating.gov.au for further information.

Could water-efficient products help your business to save?

Where do you use hoses?

Are hoses left running unsupervised?

Water use items	Type and flow rate	Number	Location	Opportunities for savings
Nozzles				
Toilet				
Urinal				
Shower roses				

References

1. Envirowise (1998) Reducing the Cost of Cleaning in the Food and Drink Industry. Retrieved 05-04-2006 from: www.envirowise.gov.uk/page.aspx?o=118301
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3. SW (2005) Fact Sheets - Spray Nozzles, Sydney Water, Sydney. Retrieved 06-01-2005 from: www.sydneywater.com.au/Publications/_download.cfm?DownloadFile=Factsheets/SprayNozzles.pdf
4. SA (2003) AS/NZS 6400 2003 Water Efficient Products - Rating and Labelling, Standards Australia, SAI Global, Sydney.

For further information

Ecobiz can assist you to reduce costs and improve eco-efficiency in your business Call 1300 369 388 for further information.

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