

Become a Business Watersaver today

Water efficiency for small business

Australia is the driest inhabited continent on earth. Despite this, we have one of the highest per capita water consumption rates in the world.

Continued population growth in the region is predicted. By implementing water efficient techniques you can become a Business Watersaver and help secure our regions water supply for today and the future.

Benefits of becoming a Watersaver

1. Water bills and associated costs are reduced – in office buildings savings of around 30% are possible.
2. Increased employee engagement.
3. Improved public image.
4. Knowing you are helping to build a more resilient and sustainable community.



Are you already a Business Watersaver?

To find out, ask yourself 'Does my business...'

- use dual flush toilets?
- have a water efficient urinal system?
- have flow controlled aerators fitted to all taps?
- check for leaks using the water meter?
- repair leaks quickly?
- use the dishwasher only when fully loaded?





Checking for leaks

How do I check for leaks using my water meter?

Before leaving for the day, check your water meter reading and write it down somewhere safe. Select a day where you are sure no additional water will be used overnight, then the following morning check your meter again. Compare this figure to the one you wrote down the night before – if the morning figure is higher, you have a water leak that needs to be traced and fixed.

How can I tell if my toilet's leaking?

To check if your toilet has a slow leak, add a few drops of food colouring to the toilet cistern. Don't flush the toilet for at least one hour. If colouring shows up in the toilet bowl after an hour, there is a leak. After fixing the leak, repeat the food colouring test to check it has been fully repaired.

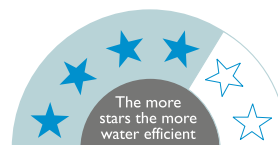


1

Employees

If your staff are engaged and motivated they will be more likely to adopt water saving practices and their enthusiasm may also lead to other benefits for your business. To engage staff we recommend you:

- **appoint a staff member** to manage water conservation
- **display water conservation messages** around the workplace (tip: we can send you complimentary materials such as stickers for your restroom areas)
- **include water conservation policies** and procedures in staff induction programs
- **make water conservation a standard item on meeting agendas** (tip: this provides a good opportunity to remind staff to report leaks)
- **share water saving objectives** and results with employees using charts and graphs (tip: go to our website for a ready to use template)
- **place a suggestions box** in a common area and encourage employees to submit their water saving ideas



Look out for the WELS 'star rating' label when you buy your new appliance and check waterrating.gov.au for a list of water efficient products that can save money and help the environment.

To help you make informed decisions about products and services that will help to save water in your business, visit smartwatermark.org



3 step approach

We understand your time is important. This is why we've developed a simple three step approach to help you and your business achieve significant savings.

2

Indoors

Walk through your place of business and identify which of the below measures have already been introduced and which need to be implemented. Some will be easy to implement, others may need to be planned for but collectively they will lead to significant savings.

- **Leaking taps and pipes** – checking for leaks regularly and repairing them quickly is a simple yet often overlooked way to save water.
- **Dual flush toilets** – up to 8 litres of water can be saved every time you use the half flush.
- **Water efficient urinals** – now a mandatory requirement throughout Queensland (for further information refer to the back page of this fact sheet).
- **Flow controlled aerators on taps** – these will help you save more than 6 litres per minute.
- **Water efficient showerheads** – a four star rated showerhead can save between 8–19 litres every minute compared to a standard showerhead.
- **Dishwasher** – use a water saving setting and save 10–30 litres of water for every load, use less energy plus reduce the amount of detergent entering the wastewater system. (Remember to turn the dishwasher on only when there is a full load though!)
- **Use a bucket** to wash and rinse when cleaning.
- **Rinse dishes in a plugged sink** instead of under a running tap.



3

Outdoors

If your business has an outdoor area it will take minimal effort to save a generous amount of water. Speak to the person responsible for maintaining this area and ask them to implement as many of these measures as possible.

- **Use a broom** to sweep paved outdoor areas instead of hosing them down.
- **Use a trigger hose, bucket or water can** when watering the garden or washing the car.*
- **Water gardens in the low evaporation periods** of early morning and late evening.*
- **Select native and other drought resistant plants** for your garden.
- **Use mulch and wetting agents** around shrubs and garden plants to reduce evaporation.
- **If feasible, install a rainwater tank** to capture roof run-off for reuse in the garden.

* In compliance with regional water restrictions as applicable.



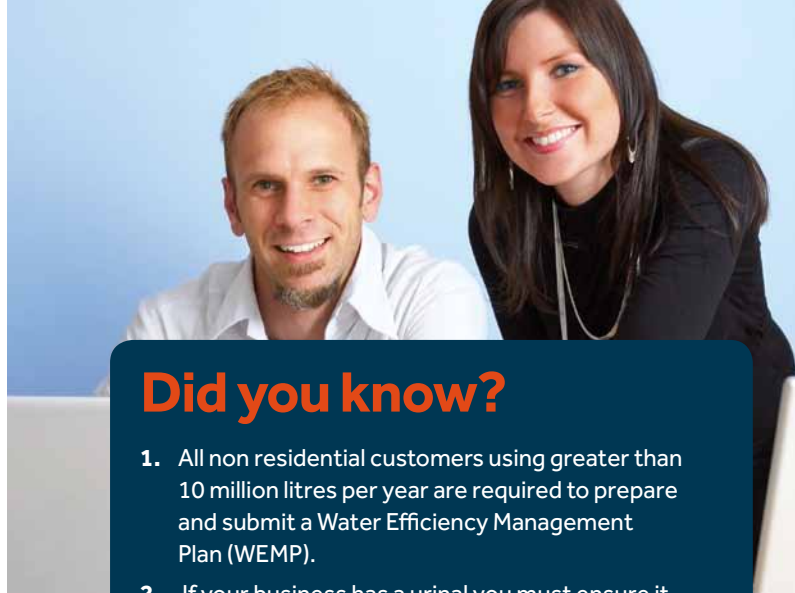
Once you have implemented these steps why not promote

your status as a Business Watersaver

in high traffic areas such as reception and on your website. This will ensure your customers, suppliers and other key people know your business is helping to build a more resilient and sustainable community.

Visit allconnex.com.au to:

- 1 Order complimentary water conservation materials including stickers and posters.
- 2 Download a water consumption template (enabling you to chart your water savings).
- 3 Sign up to receive the Allconnex Water 'Water Biz' business e-Newsletter.



Further information

This fact sheet is designed to inform you about specific water efficiency measures for your small business. Further information on becoming a Business Watersaver can be accessed from the sources listed below.

- Sign up to receive the Allconnex Water 'Water Biz' business e-newsletter and be kept up to date with:
 - permanent water conservation measures
 - water saving tips & product innovations
 - financial assistance opportunities
 - competitions & initiatives
 - complimentary prompt materials for staff and visitors
 - State Government initiatives and updates
- The Queensland Water Commission provides information on sustainability programs including Water Efficiency Management Plans and government water rebates – visit qwc.qld.gov.au.
- Smart Approved WaterMark has a list of water efficient products and services – visit smartwatermark.org.
- The Water Efficiency Labelling and Standards (WELS) Scheme makes it easy to compare water consumption and star ratings of registered appliances – visit waterrating.gov.au.
- The Master Plumbers and Mechanical Services Association of Australia can help you locate your nearest GreenPlumber. These professionals have received training in water efficient products and their installation – visit greenplumbers.com.au or call 1300 368 519.

Visit us at allconnex.com.au

Allconnex Water would like to thank the following organisations for their contribution to the development of this fact sheet: Environmental Protection Agency, *Eco-efficiency for Small Business fact sheet*; Department of Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts, *Water Efficiency information sheet*; Queensland Water Commission, *Water at Work*; Local Government Infrastructure Services Pty Ltd.

Did you know?

1. All non residential customers using greater than 10 million litres per year are required to prepare and submit a Water Efficiency Management Plan (WEMP).
2. If your business has a urinal you must ensure it is a water efficient system in accordance with Queensland Water Commission performance requirements.
3. Water efficient urinal system means: a combination of a urinal and a urinal control flushing mechanism that is:
 - rated four star or better under the Australian Water Efficiency Labelling and Standards Scheme; or
 - flushing of no more than 1.5 litres per stall or 600 millimetres width of continuous wall which is initiated automatically; triggered by user presence; or with the ability to delay flush initiation by time or triggers; or
 - flushing of no more than 1.5 litres per stall or 600 millimetres width of continuous wall which is activated by cord, chain, button or other control; or
4. A urinal system that is operated with a maximum daily water use of 10 litres per stall or 600 millimetres of continuous wall.
5. Waterless urinals are also an option and should be considered.

Permanent water conservation measures

Saving water is everyone's business. Ensure you're up to date with the permanent water conservation measures so you can continue to use water efficiently.

Visit qwc.qld.gov.au for the permanent water conservation measures.