Bathrooms, toilets and waterless urinals

Waterwise Business Information Sheet

Water management options

A wide variety of water management options for wet areas are available to building facility managers.

Some options simply involve educating building occupants on efficient water use through informational signs and stickers.

Others involve changing the way fixtures and equipment are operated and maintained.

The most significant long term savings usually require retrofitting or replacing fixtures and equipment.

Some options to reduce your water consumption will be immediately apparent, such as fixing a leaky tap. Others, such as determining how many and what types of toilets to install, require further research.

It is important to evaluate each option on its ability to conserve water, as well as its practicality.

For example, replacing a high-consumption fixture with a low-consumption fixture will enable you to realise the greatest amount of water savings over time.

Where limited budgets prevent the initial high price of replacement, other interim measures such as retrofitting toilets with displacement devices may help save significant volumes of water. Alternatively, look to replace the fixtures that are used most frequently first.

User education

A simple way to mange water use is through user education. The use of signs in bathrooms encouraging efficient water us is becoming widely accepted. Some water saving tips are:

- Don't leave the water running while brushing teeth or shaving.
- Encourage shorter showers.
- Ensure taps are properly turned off.
- Advise users that water efficient devices have been fitted through the building.
- Ask users to report any leaks.

These signs also promote the establishment as being environmentally and socially conscious.

Toilets and urinals

Toilets and urinals, particularly in areas of high public use, can account for up to 25% of a building's water consumption.

The following steps can be undertaken at nil or low cost.

- Fix leaks! A leaking toilet or urinal can waste up to 200 litres of water per day. Inspect all toilets regularly and conduct dye tests for leaks by putting a few drops of food colouring in the toilet cistern and checking for colour in the toilet bowl 15 minutes later.
- Check for damage. Some public toilets are prone to vandalism which may result in leaks.
- Check timing cycles and volumes for automatic flushing systems. Automatic flushing should be tied to the operating hours of the building.
- Have a regular inspection schedule and provide information on how users can report leaks.

Retrofit options:

- Install 6/3 litre dual flush toilets.
- Install an infra-red sensor for automatic flushing of urinals.
- Install low flow valves or adjust flush values for 'on-line' urinals and toilets (ie without a cistern).
- Install waterless urinals.

Waterless urinals

Non-purpose built waterless urinals are intended to convert an existing water carriage urinal to waterless operation. In consideration of this, the Department of Health has no objections to the use of non-purpose built systems provided that:

- the flushing system is not disconnected from any urinals in which the system is used;
- the system is used in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions; and
- urinals in which the system is used are cleaned and maintained in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations.

Busselton Water does not recommended a preferred product or supplier for waterless urinals, however we provide some alternatives below:

- www.envirocaresystems.com.au
- www.urimat-australia.com.au
- www.zurn.com.au
- www.tradelink.com.au
- www.uridanaustralia.com.au

The products listed do not reflect all products currently available on the market. For further details and pricing please contact the distributors.

The Department of Health has assessed purpose built waterless urinals and has no objections to the use of these types of products, provided that the urinals are cleaned and maintained in accordance with the manufacturers requirements**.**

For more information on the various products available and their individual water efficiency ratings please visit **http://search.waterrating.com.au**

References Facility Manager's Guide to Water management, Version 2.2 (August 2000) - Arizona Municipal Water Users Association.
DPPEA FY04-08 (August 2002) - North Carolina Division of Pollution Prevention and Environmental Assistance.
Water Corporation, Perth WA.

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