

Business Water Conservation Checklist

Complete our water-wise checklist to identify ways that improve the water efficiency of your business.



Indoor Water Use

Was the building constructed or remodeled after 1994?

- Yes** – Buildings constructed or whose plumbing fixtures have been remodeled after 1994 were built using federal standards for water-using fixtures including toilets, urinals, and showerheads. It is likely that the fixtures in your building were manufactured to be water-efficient.
- No** – Buildings constructed before 1994 were built prior to federal standards for water-using fixtures and tend to have greater opportunity for water savings through fixture replacement.

Tip: San Francisco codes were updated to meet new standards for water-using fixtures. Any new toilet will use 1.28 gallons per flush and urinal 0.125 gallons per flush or less.

Are any of the toilets or urinals in your building 20 years old or older (pre-1994)?

- Yes** – It's likely that these fixtures are inefficient and replacing them with high-efficiency models could save over 2 gallons per flush.
- No** – Your fixtures are designed to flush efficiently at 1.6 gallons per flush or less for toilets and 1.0 gallons per flush or less for urinals.
- Not Sure** – You may benefit from having a free SFPUC [Water-Wise Evaluation](#) to help determine if they are efficient.

Tip: High-efficiency toilets and urinals (HETs and HEUs) use at least 20% less water than the federally required flush rates.

Do the water using fixtures (toilets, urinals, faucets) receive routine preventative maintenance?

- Yes** – The fixtures in your building are more likely to operate efficiently.
- No** – A preventative maintenance plan should be put in place to reduce the likelihood of leaks

Tip: A leaking flushometer toilet can waste up to 30 gallons per minute. Most toilet replacement parts can be found at plumbing hardware supply stores.

Do your building maintenance vendors know that water efficiency is a priority for your business?

- Yes** – Vendors know that your business has made a commitment to water conservation and have demonstrated to you how they have maximized water efficiency at your site.
- No** – Inform vendors that water conservation is a priority to you and that their services relating to water use such cooling towers, landscape, laundry and dishwashing should minimize water use while still providing a high level of service.

Tip: Reducing your facility's water use can lead to lower water and waste water bills and increase your bottom line.

Has your business designated a water conservation champion?

- Yes** – Businesses that assign responsibility to monitor water use and manage water efficiency projects tend to reduce their water use.
- No** – Identify a member of your team to be the point person on water use. This person should be aware of how water is used onsite, where efficiency upgrades may be made, and communicate with fellow employees to encourage a water-efficient workplace.

Does your business educate employees and visitors about water conservation practices?

- Yes** – Signage has been placed in kitchens, restrooms, locker rooms and other public areas encouraging water conservation practices.
- No** – Request free signage for your business from the SFPUC.

Tip: Water conservation signage informs employees, visitors, and patrons that your business culture focuses on using resources efficiently.

Outdoor Water Use

Does your irrigation system have any leaks?

- Yes** – Irrigation leaks can waste thousands of gallons of water. Be sure to fix any irrigation leaks such as broken spray heads or pipes as soon as possible. Many irrigation leaks can be fixed with easily found replacement parts or contact a landscape professional.
- No** – An irrigation system without any leaks distributes water effectively to the landscape. To maximize efficiency, ensure that your irrigation schedule is appropriate for the type of landscape plantings and seasonal water needs.
- Not Sure** – Run your irrigation system on manual mode and inspect the system for leaks or participate in a free SFPUC [Water-Wise Evaluation](#).

Tip: Your irrigation system should be checked regularly to make sure it is not damaged or leaking.

Do your shrub beds have a layer of mulch?

- Yes** – Mulch helps increase water efficiency by reducing the rate that water is evaporated from the soil by the sun.
- No** – Apply a minimum of two inches of mulch to the shrub beds to help reduce the need for frequent irrigation and increase soil and plant health.

Tip: Mulch not only helps make your landscape water efficient, it also discourages unwanted weed growth.

To learn more about the SFPUC's programs and services that can help improve the water-efficiency of your business, visit sfwater.org/conservation or:

- Schedule a Water-Wise Evaluation by calling (415) 551-4730
- Apply for clothes washer rebates at sfwater.org/rebates
- Learn about landscape efficiency at sfwater.org/landscape
- Free plumbing devices such as commercial grade faucet aerators, showerheads, food service pre-rinse spray valves, and standard toilet repair parts are available when you sign-up for a free Water-Wise Evaluation.