



# WATER CONSERVATION FACT SHEET FOR HOSPITALITY



Clean water is a very important resource for all the hospitality sector. It is used all day, every day, for a variety of purposes – taps, showers, cooking, cleaning, laundry, toilets and heating. However, water can be an expensive resource if not managed properly so, in addition to ensuring quality services are provided, it is also important financially to conserve water.

## IMMEDIATE ACTIONS TO SAVE COSTS

### Know your costs!

If you are not already doing it, gather water consumption information from your bills to track water use. This data can be used for benchmarking (i.e. comparing water use to activity). Check guidance to compare with averages in your sector.

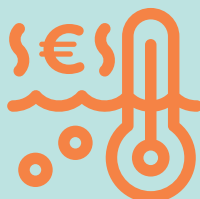


### Check for leaks

Make sure to check for leaks as these are costing you money every minute of every day. The best way to do this is to check your meter when there is no/little on-site activity (e.g. overnight/weekend). If there is a significant amount of water being used then you probably have a leak.

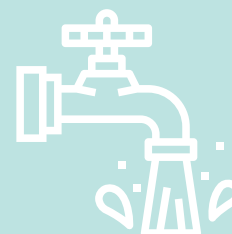
### Hot water costs more

Typically hot water costs up to five times more than cold water so, making sure your hot water services are efficient, will save you on water and energy costs.



### Train & engage staff

Train staff to be more aware of the amount of water they use in their day-to-day functions, how to identify leaks around the business and to report issues as they see them.



### Check flow rates

Check tap and shower flow rates in your business, especially in areas of high use. These can be measured with a graduated container and stopwatch and compared to best practice:

### Flow rates - best practice



**Public toilet & bathroom taps**  
2 – 4 litres per minute



**Kitchen taps**  
6 – 8 litres per minute



**Showers**  
6 - 8 litres per minute

**HIGH FLOW RATES CAN BE REDUCED BY FITTING AERATORS ON TAPS, USING TRIGGER-OPERATED SPRAY NOZZLES IN KITCHENS AND WATER SAVING SHOWER HEADS IN BATHROOMS.**



**Get a Resource Efficiency score for your company and a tailored Action Plan with TREE, our online assessment tool.**



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## MORE ACTIONS TO SAVE COSTS

### Get professional help

Leaks don't fix themselves and usually only get worse with time. If you have identified possible leaks in your business, and can't find them quickly, then the best option is to hire a leak detection company.



### Take control

Tap controls, like timed push taps and sensors, can save water. Such taps do need to be set up carefully and subsequently maintained. However, even with conventional taps, aerators can save money through reducing flowrates, and are generally cheap to install for most taps.



### Money back

If you identify a leak, or have done so in the past, you may be entitled to a leak rebate. Potential leak rebates extend back to 2014 and if you think you have a case contact Irish Water.



### 'A' Rated

Improving water efficiency may require investing in new equipment or fittings. When purchasing new equipment, buy products that are water and energy efficient or 'A' rated. For example, modern dishwashers can use as little as 9 litres per wash cycle.



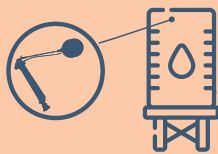
### Communicate with customers

Engaging your customers to be water conscious is an important communication action that can also help your business minimise water costs. From reporting leaks to minimising the washing of bedroom towels, customers can actively help your business conserve water.

## SUCCESS STORIES



**A bar in Waterford saved €3,000 per annum** on water costs by installing motion sensors and reducing flush rates on urinals. The sensors cost €300.



**A Dublin restaurant saved €2,600 per annum** after identifying and repairing a faulty ballcock in its water storage tank.



**A Wexford hotel saved €10,000 per annum** by replacing 110 shower heads. This reduced flow rates from 25 litres/min to 8 litres/min. The payback was ~ 7 months.



### Rainwater is free!

Collecting rainwater is ideal for outside use, such as gardening, vehicle and bin washing, and general cleaning. This will reduce costs and can help when National Water Conservation Orders are in place.

### Useful links



- [National Waste Prevention Programme](#)
- [Irish Hotels Federation Sustainability Initiative](#)
- [Irish Water - Water Conservation for Business](#)

This factsheet was produced by:

