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Greetings!

Water saving tips for hotels

Climate change and population growth are making water scarcity a growing global problem. Therefore, accommodations and hotels have both a commercial and moral interest in reducing their water consumption. Cost is a significant factor as water consumption averagely accounts for 10% of the fixed expenses of any hotel. Also, many of them pay for the water they consume twice: by buying it fresh and getting rid of it as waste water. Additionally, the moral aspect is equally compelling since water is a scarce resource in many hotels. This is the reason they have the obligation to not utilize more than needed, especially in remote areas. Through an efficient management, the local residents can be assured that they shall not be deprived of the essential supply.

Executing an informed water management plan to incorporate technological upgrades and employee training can minimize a hotels water usage and wastewater thus cutting on the escalating water bills. Below is a suggested list of possible ways to initiate water conservation in hotels.

Establish a Water Management Plan

As an accommodation facility, you should conduct a water usage audit to get a clear understanding of your expenses and savings opportunities. Meter and sub-meter your usage at every key consumption point as careful metering can uncover your problem areas and give you significant information on water utilization over time.

Set goals and communicate these goals to the hotel staff so they understand best water-saving practices and how to maintain equipment for optimum efficiencies. You may also consider adding a staff incentive plan to encourage employees to be vigilant in reducing water consumption.

Employees will have a significant impact on ensuring responsible water usage. Set up strategies to train and inform housekeeping on reducing water usage. These includes practices such as not leaving taps running, consciousness on how regularly to flush toilets when cleaning and utilizing a mop as opposed to a hose when cleaning floors. The illustration below is of a water meter taken during the Ecorating audit of Sweetwaters Serena camp in February 2021.



Reduce water usage for Landscaping

Numerous hotel landscapes are filled with turf grass and non-native plants requiring costly and water-inefficient irrigation systems. Consider landscaping with native species that have adapted to their environment and require less human intervention.

Also, consider rainwater collection. Thoughtful roof design and gutter placement can yield extra water for irrigation and other uses.

Minimize water usage for Laundry Services

Laundry services account for a critical amount of water use in the accommodation business. Facilities should therefore post their policies regarding towel placement and laundering clearly. Many guests have now become respectful of requesting laundry service only when necessary. Further, facilities should educate employees on the optimum number and size of machine loads. The illustration below is a picture of a towel placement notice displayed in the guest tents at Sirikoi Lodge.



Install Water Efficiency Systems

Research grey-water strategies for the wastewater generated by laundry, dishwashing, bathing, etc. If treated properly, this water can be repurposed for irrigation and toilet flushing reducing the usage of fresh water. Grey-water systems can enable up to 50% of wastewater to be returned to the hotel for use after treatment.

Consider adjustable flow restrictors on taps enable them to deliver a lower instantaneous flow rate than screw-operated taps. This can reduce tap water use by more than half.

Minimize water usage for Swimming Pools

Swimming pools can increase freshwater consumption by up to 10%.

Pool maintenance is critical and incorporates standard checking for leaks and water conscious cleaning plans. If your pool has hours when it is not in use, consider covering swimming pools to prevent evaporation reducing the need to empty and refill.

Reduce water usage for Bathrooms

Low flow bathroom features can decrease water utilization by as much as 30%. Aerated shower heads and low flow toilets are becoming more and more economical. As you work through your renovation and long-term capital improvement plan, consider adding low flow features.

Additionally, regular maintenance is key and fix all leaks.

By making your business more eco-conscious and setting a good example, not only will you potentially attract more customers, but you'll also encourage others to follow in your footsteps. This will ultimately lead to increased consciousness regarding the importance of water conservation which can only have positive results in the end.