



# BE WATERWISE

## Landscape Water Saving Tips for Offices/households

- 1) Water garden areas only when necessary and use mulch to reduce water loss
- 2) Install software or technologies to help with efficient irrigation system
- 3) Consider re-using or recycling water where possible, especially for irrigation. Strictly for not drinking and don't forget to put up signage when recycle water is used.
- 4) Do research and get more knowledge of using non-potable water (this means water not of drinking quality such as recycled water, storm water or greywater)
- 5) Goodbye grass. If there is grass on the grounds of your workplace, consider removing the grass.
- 6) Xeriscape, use waterless plants for your garden. Use recycled or harvested water to water your garden.
- 7) Smart watering. If landscaping is watered, make sure it's done in the morning, when the cooler temperatures mean more of the water goes into the soil instead of evaporating. Install rain sensors so the system turns off when actual rain takes over the watering duties.
- 8) Use drip irrigation where possible.
- 9) Install rain water harvesting systems to catch the rain and use the harvested water in non-human consumption
- 10) Hire a water wise irrigation partner to help with your landscape.
- 11) Saving water on your landscape adds up quickly. Send the person in charge of your landscape to an irrigation training course.
- 12) Do competition, test you're the staff on topics like plants suitable for xeriscape, Water Wise, and very efficient devices. See how water-wise they are.
- 13) Marry the weather with your landscape water use. Water use should decrease during rainy periods and increase during hot, dry periods. But don't forget to water before 9am and after 6pm to avoid evaporation
- 14) Inspect your landscape irrigation system regularly for leaks or broken sprinkler heads and adjust pressures to specification.
- 15) Have less grass areas at your facility. Instead, landscape using xeriscape principles to cut water use in half.
- 16) Establish a monthly water budget for your landscape based on the water needs of your plants.
- 17) Put decorative fountains on timers and use only during work or daylight hours.
- 18) Check for leaks if you have automatic refilling devices.
- 19) Consider turning your high-maintenance water feature/fountain into a low-maintenance art feature or planter.

## Guest Houses, B&B, and Hotels

The establishments should encourage and educate guests on water consumption. Encourage guests to reflect on their own water use at home. The simplest way to educate your customers is to communicate what the hotel is doing to minimise water consumption. Showcase your involvement in minimising water consumption by displaying your water use efficient awards, certificates, memberships, posters and distributing some flyers to your guests.

- 1) For Guest houses and hotels, encourage guests to use shower instead of bathtubs, and it should be less than 5 minutes showers
- 2) Place a sign above basins suggesting that guests don't leave the tap running while shaving or brushing teeth
- 3) Encourage guests to reuse towels and linens during their stay, reducing unnecessary washing.
- 4) Train hotel staff on water conservation practices and encourage them to promote them among guests.
- 5) Inform guests about the hotel's commitment to water sustainability and provide water saving tips, and on how they can contribute during their stay.
- 6) For Hotel laundry, ensure that machines are fully loaded before use
- 7) Conduct routine maintenance on your machines, checking for leaks, ensuring that water inlet valves are closing properly etc.
- 8) When buying new machines, look for good water and energy consumption ratings

Encourage your guest to join Sustainable Travel by choosing green hotels, it is the best way we can contribute in ensuring that we save the planet for future.

**WATER IS LIFE - SANITATION IS DIGNITY**

**South Africa is a water-scarce country, use water sparingly**



**water & sanitation**

Department:  
Water and Sanitation  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

