



## WATER CONSERVATION IN CONDOMINIUMS & APARTMENT BUILDINGS



The island of Oahu's unique hydrologic system enables it to sustain our population. However, researchers say we waste an estimated 30% of the fresh water we use every day. Although our island has enjoyed an abundant supply of fresh water over the years, drought and water waste have put a strain on our water supply.

In order to ensure we are able to meet the needs of our community today and tomorrow, the Board of Water Supply (BWS) proactively pursues alternative sources of water and actively encourages the preservation and protection of our finite water resource.

Residential consumers are part of a large segment of the community which draws from our municipal system. Condominium and apartment buildings are a major element of residential water consumption. This brochure is aimed at providing you with information on how to make your building or your individual unit more water-efficient.

### Laundry

- Wash full loads instead of partial loads to conserve water
- Soak badly stained clothing in a pail of water overnight, to improve cleaning
- Check for leaks in plumbing

### ***A message from the Honolulu Board of Water Supply...***

Good water management for our island involves the cooperation of all consumers on Oahu. This means that we must constantly strive for the most efficient use of our precious fresh water supply.

We appreciate the *kokua* of all our customers, including residents of condominiums and apartment buildings, to use water wisely and avoid waste.

If you have any questions or would like a supply of water conservation informational materials, please call us at 748-5041. Or visit us at [www.boardofwatersupply.com](http://www.boardofwatersupply.com).

### ***Mahalo***



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- If washing dishes by hand, use a bowl of soapy water to scrub first, then rinse all at once, rather than letting the faucet run
- Wash vegetables in a bowl of water instead of under a running tap
- Keep a bottle of chilled water in the refrigerator
- Steam vegetables, instead of boiling them
- Install water-saving devices in faucets
- Check for leaks in plumbing



### Bathroom

- Install water-saving toilet fixtures, including toilet dams, low-flush toilet tanks, or dual flush devices
- Don't use the toilet as a waste-basket; it's the biggest water-user in the home
- Take 5-minute showers instead of tub baths
- When brushing teeth, use a glass of water to rinse, instead of letting the faucet run
- Install flow-restrictors or other water-saving devices for the shower and faucets
- Check for leaks in plumbing

## **AN INVENTORY OF YOUR WATER USES**

What are the ways in which you use water in your building? To manage water use most efficiently, start with a check-list of how you use water:

### **Indoors**

- Air-conditioning common areas
- Washing machines
- Sinks
- Bathrooms
- Toilets
- Dishwashers
- Cooking
- Cleaning



### **Outdoors**

- Landscape irrigation
- Swimming pools
- Cleaning common areas
- Car wash areas



After completing the inventory, consider the following changes in operations or individual water use practices. If you're dealing with the building as a whole, begin with general water use approaches that can be controlled through policies of the building management and through physical changes in plumbing equipment for common areas.

## **Common Area Conservation**

### **Landscaping**

- Install an efficient irrigation system
- Convert to xeriscaping (a water-efficient landscape)
- Check for leaks in existing irrigation systems
- Set timers to irrigate overnight or in the early morning hours before dawn
- Install moisture-sensors or automatic shut-off devices to turn off irrigation systems when it's raining

### **Central Air-Conditioning**

- Install a dual-pass system with closed-loop circulation to re-use water on a continual basis
- Where possible, consider recycling effluent for irrigation
- Check for leaks in plumbing

### **Cleaning of Common Areas**

- For tiled and paved areas, patios, pool decks and lanais: Use a broom or rake, or a bucket and mop, instead of hosing these areas down during cleaning.

### **Laundry**

- Install signs urging residents to wash full loads only
- Check for leaks in laundry equipment or plumbing fixtures

### **Car Wash Areas**



- Attach a nozzle controller to the hose
- Provide or require that buckets be used to reduce water loss during wash period

### **Swimming Pools**

- Install a pool cover (usually canvas) to reduce evaporation
- Minimize frequency of pool water changes

## **Individual Unit Water Conservation**

Individual occupants of condominium and apartment buildings use varying amounts of water, even though the water bill is generally paid from a common maintenance fund shared equally by all unit occupants or owners. However, property managers, association boards, or tenant organizations can help occupants use water more efficiently by providing water conservation informational materials to every unit in the building. Some indoor water conservation approaches can include:

### **Kitchen**

- Dishwasher: Use full loads instead of small, partial loads before washing

