



The Flow

Springfield Water & Sewer
Commission

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More Information

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WATER EFFICIENCY - PART III

In the Workplace

Leaks don't just happen at home. You should be on the lookout for leaks even when you are at work. Here are some ways to help find and fix leaks in your workplace.

- If you see a leak—in the restroom, pantry, or outdoors—report it to your maintenance staff.
- Organize a Fix a Leak Week event in your facility to challenge employees and tenants to find leaks and report water waste. You may even be able to get your local water utility to help.
- Post signs in restrooms and pantries to encourage everyone to look for leaks and report problems. Include information on who they should contact.
- Spread the word about saving water to all tenants, as well as cleaning, housekeeping, maintenance, landscaping staff, and contractors.
- Use checklists to keep track of areas to check for leaks. Include areas throughout the facility such as bathrooms, mechanical rooms, and outdoor areas. Track your water usage for a 12-month period to get an idea of the facility's average usage. Remember- you can't manage what you don't measure.

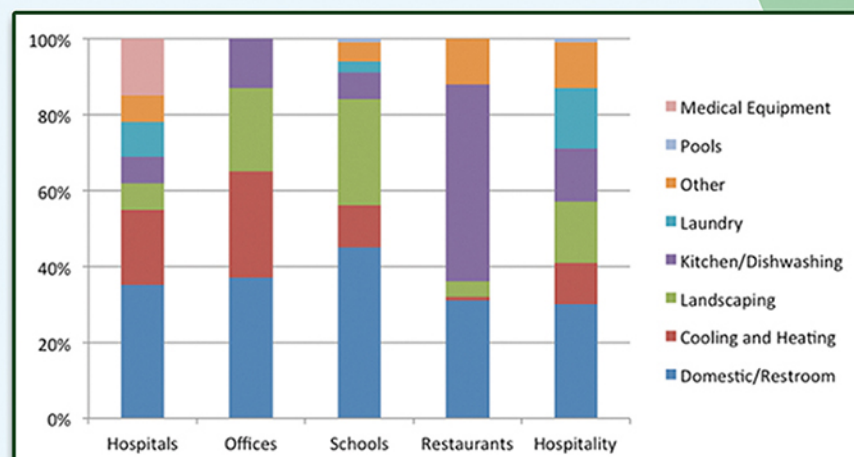
Did you Know?

At around 6 percent of water use, leaks can be the greatest source of water waste within a facility. Leaks and continuously running water may not always be visible, but they can add up quickly and become a major cost in water and energy bills.

Commercial & Industrial Sector

The commercial and institutional sector is the second largest consumer of publicly supplied water in the U.S., accounting for 17 percent of the withdrawals from public water supplies. This sector includes a variety of facility types such as hotels, restaurants, office buildings, schools, hospitals, laboratories, and government and military institutions. Each facility type has different water use patterns depending on its function.

End Uses of Water in Various Types of Commercial and Institutional Facilities



DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know a leaking toilet can waste up to 3 gallons per minute which equates to 4,300 gallons per day?! That can really make a water bill skyrocket if left unfixed.



EFFICIENT & HIGH QUALITY WATER SUPPLY

INDUSTRIAL

Industrial facilities can use many of the best management practices described in [WaterSense at Work](#) to analyze the water used by technologies, systems, and processes in their facilities. For example, industrial facilities often use water to move products, change or maintain temperature, clean equipment, or prevent drying between the stations of a manufacturing assembly line.



There are many ways industrial facilities can improve their water efficiency, including:

Optimizing Processes

Industrial facilities may be able to improve water efficiency by evaluating the amount of water used in each step of a process or in between the steps of a process.

Reusing Water

Depending on the water quality requirements, water from one step of a process can sometimes be recycled or reused in another part of the manufacturing facility. In some cases, pretreatment of this water may be necessary to control the concentration of contaminants before returning the water to the process or reused directly.

Checking Permits

Facilities should contact their local water or wastewater utility for technical assistance before making any process changes that would affect the discharges or effluent of the facility. Wastewater discharges from all industrial facilities are regulated under the Clean Water Act through the [National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System \(NPDES\)](#). Each NPDES permit incorporates limits on specific pollutants set in effluent guidelines and/or pretreatment standards for a facility.



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