

Austin Water has rebates, water-efficient regulations, and recommended best management practices to help hotels and other lodging facilities save both water and money.

REBATES & FREE PROGRAMS

REBATES

BUCKS FOR BUSINESS

- **Up to \$40 each** - Installing showerheads that use no more than 1.5 gallons per minute
- **Up to \$100,000 for each of the following** -
 - o Installing laundry water reuse or ozone clothes washer systems
 - o Installing cooling tower water treatment systems that achieve more than 5 cycles of concentration
 - o Capturing air conditioner condensate for cooling tower makeup water or landscape irrigation
 - o Installing equipment to collect both rainwater and air conditioner condensate for landscape watering

COMMERCIAL KITCHEN

- **\$40 each** - Installing WaterSense labeled pre-rinse spray valves that use no more than 1.28 gallons per minute
- **\$275 each** - Replacing constant flow dipper wells with models that use heated water or flow restrictors with a maximum flow rate of 0.2 gallons per minute
- **\$600 each** - Replacing ovens with ENERGY STAR® rated boilerless combination ovens
- **\$1,000 each** - Replacing food steamers with ENERGY STAR® rated boilerless steam cookers
- **Up to \$2,500 each** - Installing ENERGY STAR® rated commercial dishwashers

IRRIGATION SYSTEM IMPROVEMENT

- **\$4 per nozzle** - Converting all nozzles in a station from spray to multi-stream, multi-trajectory rotor nozzles
- **\$100 each** - Installing master valves (*systems installed before 2009 only*)
- **\$300 each** - Installing flow sensors
- **Up to \$5,000** - Installing a central computer irrigation controller system

RAINWATER HARVESTING

- **Up to \$5,000** - Installing equipment to capture rainwater to use for cooling tower makeup water or other non-drinking uses such as landscape irrigation

WATER EFFICIENCY AUDIT

- **Up to \$5,000** - Having an independent third party audit done to identify potential water and cost savings

FREE PROGRAMS

3C BUSINESS CHALLENGE

- Austin Water staff reviews a facility self-audit with the customer, recommends ways to improve water efficiency, and suggests rebates to help with water-efficient upgrade costs

WATERWISE HOTEL PARTNERSHIP

- Lodging facilities meeting certain water-efficient requirements can receive free publicity, materials, and recognition from Austin Water

REQUIRED WATER-EFFICIENCY MEASURES

To help extend water supplies, Austin's [City Code](#) includes regulations for many water-using types of equipment and practices that go beyond state and federal requirements. These include:

IRRIGATION

- [Water restrictions](#) in place year-round, including:
 - o Once a week irrigation before 10 am/after 7 pm on a property's assigned day based on customer type (*commercial*) and address (*odd/even*)
 - o Restrictions on [wasting water](#) – including failing to fix leaks and operating irrigation systems with runoff, ponding, or excessively high pressure
- Properties one acre or larger must complete an [Irrigation Assessment](#) every two years

GUEST POLICIES

- Lodging facilities must offer a towel and linen reuse option to guests
- Restaurants may serve water to customers only on request

EQUIPMENT

- Food grinders in commercial kitchens are not allowed
- Pre-rinse dishwashing spray heads must use no more than 1.6 gallons per minute
- Ice machines must be air cooled, or if water cooled, must recirculate water

PLUMBING FIXTURES

- Faucet aerators in public restrooms must have a maximum flow rate of 0.5 gallons per minute
- Toilets/urinals installed since 2010 must use no more than 1.28 gallons per flush (gpf) for tank style toilets, 1.0 gpf for flush valve toilets, and 0.5 gpf for urinals

WATER SAVING BEST PRACTICES

The amount of water savings a particular facility will see can vary depending on how efficient it was to begin with, but generally, the types of measures below have high savings potential.

GUEST ROOMS

- Install bathroom faucet aerators that use 0.5 gallons per minute and kitchen sink aerators that use 1.5 gallons per minute
- Replace showerheads with low-flow models that use no more than 1.5 gallons per minute

LANDSCAPING

- Use drought tolerant native and/or adapted plants that need less water
- Add mulch to reduce water loss from evaporation
- Adjust irrigation controller settings for season, sun exposure, plant material, and soil type

EQUIPMENT

- Eliminate once-through cooling
- Recycle laundry water
- Upgrade dishwashers to ENERGY STAR® rated models

MAINTENANCE

- Use a preventative maintenance schedule for all water using equipment to quickly find and repair leaks
- Benchmark water use by using the Environmental Protection Agency's [Portfolio Manager](#)