

# Water

Wasting water could cost you 1% of turnover – but a few simple, cost-effect steps would recover at least half of that loss, saving a company with a £2 million annual turnover £10,000 per year\*. Here are some simple ways of taking action. \*Source: Envirowise

## Reducing water usage

Printing businesses use water throughout the printing process, including cooling, processing and cleaning as well as standard sanitary uses (drinking, washing, flushing toilets etc) and diluting and dispersing chemical spills. Purchasing, treating, disposing and pumping (through a larger site) all represent rising costs so cutting back on usage is important. 20% reductions in consumption can be easily achieved by following a range of procedures, including: checking for leaks, reducing excess use during cleaning and recycling cooling water, as well as installing pressure and toilet cistern volume reducers and font solution reductions.

## Monitoring water usage

The first step to reducing the amount of water you use is to monitor your consumption. Simple sources of data can include water company invoices and site meter readings as well as operating data from site distribution pumps. Every source of water will need to be measured. You can find out how much water you are discharging from similar data sources. The amount taken in by the business should be roughly the same as the amount sent out in waste. Once you know how much you use, look at each area of consumption and, as a business, think of ways of cutting back. Read *Saving Money Through Waste Water Minimisation*:

[www.envirowise.gov.uk/page.aspx?o=238164](http://www.envirowise.gov.uk/page.aspx?o=238164)

## Installing emergency spill kits

Think about spillages that might happen (for example when unloading or handling materials) then work out how to reduce those risks. Ensure you have the equipment on hand to manage accidents as well as a plan of what you will do if the worst does occur. Specialist spill kits can be purchased from manufacturers. For more details see the Environment Agency's Pollution Incident Response Planning document: [publications.environment-agency.gov.uk/pdf/PMHO0204BHUP-e-e.pdf](http://publications.environment-agency.gov.uk/pdf/PMHO0204BHUP-e-e.pdf)

## Colour-coding drains

'Foul' drain systems take dirty water from toilets and sinks to treatment centres. 'Surface' water systems carry rain and road water back in to the environment. No polluting material should therefore go near them. Colour-coding pipes and entry points (e.g. blue for surface water and red for foul drainage) helps avoid this.

## Developing a company drain plan

Colour-coding will form part of your company drain plan. This is a diagram that illustrates your entire site drainage system, showing foul and surface water pipes as well as watercourses, springs and soakaways. It promotes responsible management of water resources.

### Key words

**Pressure reducers** – a device that cuts the pressure in water pipes ensuring less water is lost in the event of leakage.

**Toilet cistern volume reducers** – a simple device that, by reducing the amount of water in a toilet's cistern, cuts the amount of water used with each flush.

**Volume reducers** – devices ('Hippo's' or 'Save-a-flush') placed in toilet cisterns to decrease the volume of each flush to reduce water usage.

**Font solution reductions** – reduction of IPA content in the dampening or fountain (font) solution which is applied to the printing plate before the ink in lithographic presses.

**Soakaway** – an area that allows waste water to drain away through the soil.

# Funds for Print

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