

Water in Leh: Conservation in the workplace

To ensure Ladakh's prosperity for generations to come, we must manage our natural resources responsibly and sustainably. Entrepreneurs in Ladakh work hard to build successful businesses. This success depends on the availability of water, particularly for hotels, guesthouses and restaurants.

If we want long term, sustainable growth in Ladakh, we must ensure long term, sustainable water management.

Here are some ways to conserve water in the workplace:

- If your showers fill a one-gallon bucket in less than 20 seconds, **replace all showerheads** with a AAA-rated water-efficient models. This can help to reduce water consumption by 40%.
- Ask guests to **turn off taps fully** after use, ensure fixtures do not leak, **install tap aerators** to minimise water use and **provide plugs in every sink**.
- Install **squat loos** which use less water, or **Ladakhi compost toilets**, which use no water.
- Upgrade flush toilets to **water-efficient models** that use 1.6 gallons per flush, rather than five gallons. To check for leaks, put food coloring in your toilet tank. If it seeps into the toilet bowl without flushing, you have a leak. Fixing it can save up to 1,000 gallons a month per toilet. Also, if your toilet flapper doesn't close after flushing, replace it.
- Monitor the water level of your storage tank overnight to **see if you have a leak** and ensure broken pipes are properly repaired.
- Use **water-efficient washing machines** and match the water usage to the load.
- Adapt your plumbing to **re-route grey water** (water from washing clothes and dishes) to irrigate trees and gardens rather than letting it run into the sewer.
- Angle **sprinklers** properly to ensure you are watering your garden, not the street. Use them in the morning or evening when temperatures are cooler to minimise evaporation, spread a layer of organic mulch around the plants to retain moisture, use **drip irrigation** where possible and **check soil moisture** three inches down before watering.
- Educate your staff on **water conservation**, make LEDeG's **Tourist Information posters and pamphlets** available for visitors to read.

