

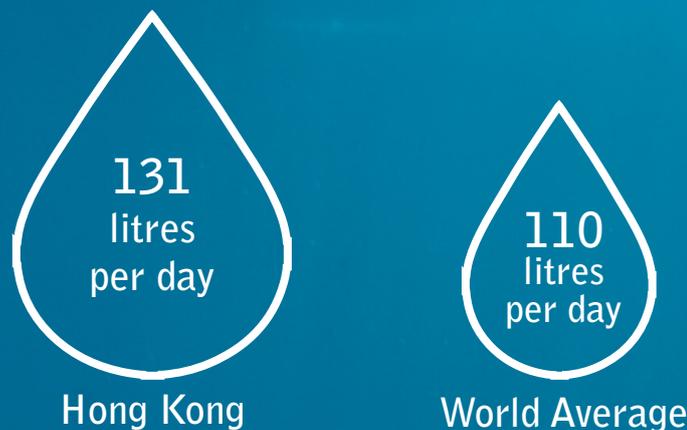
SAVING WATER IN HONG KONG

Why is it important to you?

In Hong Kong it seems as though water is everywhere, plentiful and inexpensive - which is why many of us often take it for granted. According to the Water Supplies Department, Hong Kong consumed almost 1,000 million cubic metres of fresh water in 2014 with three-quarters of that being imported from Guangdong province.

However, this abundance of water for Hong Kong may not last forever. Climate change and the increasing water needs of Guangdong's own growing cities may pose potential challenges to Hong Kong's water future. This presents the members of the Canadian Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong with both a risk and opportunity to manage our own water resources and water consumption, both as businesses and individuals.

Per Capita Domestic Fresh Water Consumption



Source: WSD Annual Report 2013/2014

Source: Water Resources in Hong Kong, Research Office, Legislative Council Secretariat 2014-2015

What can you do as a business?

No matter what type of business you are in, there are opportunities for saving water all around you.

- Educate and encourage your colleagues and workers on water conservation.
- If you see water-saving opportunities, work with your building management or building manager to realise them. For some ideas, check out <http://www.waterwise.org.uk/pages/at-work.html>.
- Ensure your centralised air-conditioning unit is operating efficiently and there is no water leakage or wastage in the system.
- Use manufacturing processes and equipment that are efficient in water use.
- Carry out regular leakage tests on piping and check for overflowing tanks, waste, worn tap washers and other defects in the water supply system.
- Optimise use of reclaimed water, which is safe for non-drinking use, in your business operations such as toilet flushing and irrigation. The Government is using reclaimed water in various trial areas and looking to expand its use to minimise pollution to the environment.
- Consider participating in the CDP (formerly the Carbon Disclosure Project) Water Disclosure Project which helps both businesses and investors systematically review, measure and understand their water usage and guide their water stewardship.

To find out more, go to www.cdp.net/water

What can you do as an individual?

The home is one of the most obvious and easiest places to conserve water with some simple behavioural changes.

- Use water-saving devices such as water-efficient showerheads, dual-flush toilet cisterns and pay attention to water-efficiency labels.
- Don't rinse your hands, clothes or vegetables under a running tap – do so in a bowl or sink.
- Turn off the tap while brushing teeth, soaping hands or shaving.
- Take short showers instead of baths.
- Water plants with the same water used for washing produce or collected from dehumidifiers.
- Only run washing machines or dishwashers with a full load and cut down the rinse cycle if possible.
- Fix dripping taps and water mains promptly.
- Control the flow from the tap; do not always turn it all the way open.
- Wash cars with a bucket of water and the towel instead of a hose.
- Avoid flushing unnecessarily.

Water-Savings for a Family of Four

TURNING OFF THE TAP
while brushing teeth, soaping
hands and shaving



SHOWERING
2 minutes less



Source: Total Water Management in Hong Kong, Water Services Department

Calculate your own water usage with the Water Services Department's water calculator at www.waterconservation.hk/en/cal.html

These tips and more can be found on the Water Services Department website at www.wsd.gov.hk

What can we do as a Chamber?

If you have any suggestions or input on how the Canadian Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong can play a greater role in saving and conserving water, do not hesitate to let us know.

WWW.CANCHAM.ORG