LEAK DETECTION AND SOLUTION

Leaks are a common cause of water wastage. Even a slow drip from a tap - one drop every few seconds - can add up to around 28 litres every day. Keep an eye out for leaking fittings around your building, and address any issues quickly. Common culprits are taps, showers, hoses and toilet cisterns.

Sometimes, leaks can’t be seen, for example if they occur in an underground pipe. You can perform a simple leak test by reading your water meter in the evening, then using no water during the night. Check the meter again in the morning, and if there is a difference, it’s likely the club has a leak somewhere. Ask your local plumber if they offer a leak detection service - most do.

Installing a leak detection system, such as AquaTrip, is another good way to address leaks in a facility. AquaTrip is a permanently installed leak detection system with an integrated automatic shut-off valve. It avoids water wastage by automatically detecting leaks as they occur. If a leak is detected, AquaTrip will warn you by shutting off the water to prevent excess water bills, water waste and property damage. AquaTrip can tell the difference between normal water use and a leak.

APPLIANCES

When fully loaded, modern dishwashers are far more efficient than washing by hand: they use less water, energy and detergent. When loading the dishwasher, just scrape any large food scraps from dishes instead of pre-rinsing. Pre-rinsing wastes water and is unnecessary with modern dishwashers. If you only have a few dirty dishes to be washed, hand washing is the better option.

If your club washes its own uniforms, be aware that front-loading washing machines are more efficient than top loading machines with water, energy and detergent. This is because having the washing drum horizontal allows water and detergent to be circulated through the clothes more effectively.

When purchasing a dishwasher or washing machine, be sure to check its WELS rating (Water Efficiency Labelling Scheme) before purchasing - not all appliances are created equal! The more stars a product has, the more water efficient it is.

RAINWATER CAPTURE

Rainwater tanks are becoming an increasingly popular tool for rainwater harvesting. As an alternative source of water, they are being used to supplement reticulated water supply in households and other facilities. The usefulness of a rainwater tank is dependent on the amount of rainfall in the region, the collection area (usually the roof), the size of the tank and the demand.

In a sports club, non-potable water use such as toilet and urinal flushes or irrigation can account for a significant part of its water demand - in some cases it can be as high as 50% of the club's water use. This increases with the size of playing fields or greens used by a club. Therefore, rainwater capture can play an important role in addressing non-potable water use at a sports club; it not only eases the pressure on the country’s water system, but can also reduce a club’s running cost in areas where water rates and waste water rates are high.

The following figures for water storage tanks are calculated by BRANZ, based on average NZ rainfall and a 140 m² roof space.

- A 1,000 litre tank provides between 63,000 - 93,000 litres annually, good for garden-only purposes.
- A 5,000 litre tank provides between 76,000 - 120,000 litres annually, good for laundry and toilet-only purposes.
- A 23,000 litre tank provides between 83,000 - 134,000 litres annually, good for laundry, toilet, and garden purposes.

Disclaimer: Always consult with a plumbing professional before selecting or installing plumbing fixtures or appliances. The above information is intended as a guide only. Check with your council about rainwater capture regulations in your area.