

Energy Saving - Accommodation

This section looks at energy saving potential within hotel rooms. Hotel rooms are often only occupied for a few hours. This means that energy saving opportunities typically lie in ensuring appliances are switched off when not required.

Major energy use areas are hot water supply, room appliances and heating.

The most significant energy saving opportunities within the accommodation are:

LOW FLOW TAPS AND SHOWERS

Fact: Only 35% of hotel rooms have low flow showerheads or taps fitted.

Did you know: A low flow showerhead and taps can reduce room hot water consumption by 67%. This can save £30 per room per year.

How does this apply to me: Put a 10-litre bucket under the shower head and time how long it takes to fill. If it takes less than 1 minute then you can make this saving.

How do I make the saving: New showerheads can be sourced from a variety of outlets. Look for low flow varieties with a flowrate of less than 10 litres per minute. The saving will pay for the cost of the showerhead within a year. Low flow taps are harder to retrofit and should be specified during refurbishment.



ELECTRIC TOWEL RAILS

Fact: An electric towel rail can use more electricity than all the rest of the electrical appliances in the rooms.

Did you know: An electric towel rail left switched on can cost £200 per year to run. For a hotel with 20 rooms, this could be £4000 per year!

How does this apply to me: Check how your towel rails are powered. An electric towel rail will have a wire from the base. Look for where the switch is, and if a timer or control is fitted. Is the switch easy to find and is it labelled?

How do I make the saving: An easy fix is making sure the switch is well placed and labelled. This allows cleaning staff to switch off the towel rail when the room is unoccupied.

The best option is to install timer controls; these should be set to only bring the towel rail on for a few hours in the morning and evening when the towel rail is used. Controls with boost functions can also be purchased, allowing guests to temporarily override the timer.

Controls can payback in under a year.

OCCUPANCY SENSORS

Fact: Only 12% of pub hotel rooms are fitted with occupancy sensors that switch off appliances when the room is unoccupied.

Did you know: Guests often leave on lights and electrical appliances within rooms when they leave. Occupancy controls eliminate this happening and can save around £20 per room per year.

How does this apply to me: If no controls exist then a cost effective way to make savings is to instruct cleaning staff to turn off room appliances during cleaning rounds. This can include turning off TVs, lights and electric heaters. Full control can be provided by methods such as key card switches, occupancy sensors, or smart occupancy control.

How do I make the saving: Systems like key card switches are best installed during refits. Other technologies such as smart occupancy control can easily be retrofitted. Investigate suitability of equipment for your hotel as paybacks can exceed 5 years for more complex building management systems.

HOT WATER STERILANT TECHNOLOGY

Fact: Only 35% of hotels have a sterilant technology installed that allows them to lower their hot water temperature.

Did you know: This technology eliminates legionella risk and allows hot water temperatures to be reduced, thus saving energy. It is more applicable to hotels with greater than 20 rooms. The savings are around £15 per room per year. A hotel with 20 rooms could save £300 per year.

How does this apply to me: If you have more than 20 rooms, check how your hot water is heated. If it is generated centrally then this opportunity may be viable.

How do I make the saving: Several technologies exist, the most popular being on exchange or chlorine dioxide treatment. Payback can be over 4 years and many companies offer treatment equipment. Contact a supplier for further details.

