



INDUSTRIAL SECTOR

Water Resilience Guide



For warehouses and storage facilities, water resilience is about protecting continuity, reducing costs, and safeguarding reputation.

Water scarcity or disruption is not just an inconvenience, it is a direct threat to operations. This guide will help you understand your water footprint, identify risks, and implement practical strategies to ensure your operations are resilient in the face of changing water availability and increasing costs.



Why Water Matters to Your Organisation, Right Now:

- **Hidden Costs:** Water bills are only the beginning. Leaks, inefficiencies, and interruptions increase operational costs significantly.
- **Reputation Risk:** Clients, investors, and regulators expect responsible water management. Your footprint is visible.
- **Operational Security:** Water scarcity, drought, and infrastructure failures are growing threats.
- **Real Savings:** Reducing consumption by just 10–20% can translate into thousands of pounds in savings every year.

Your Water Footprint: Where It Goes & Why It Matters

- **Sanitation/Restrooms (30–50%):** Toilets, sinks, and staff facilities.
- **Cleaning & Washdowns (20–30%):** Equipment, vehicles, and surfaces.
- **Cooling/HVAC (10–20%):** Where used, this is a significant demand.
- **Landscaping/Outdoor (5–10%):** Car parks, green spaces, dust suppression.
- **Specific Processes (5–15%):** E.g. dust suppression or machinery cooling.

Knowing where water is consumed helps identify your biggest waste points. Focus your efforts where impact is highest.

Quick Wins: Immediate Savings, Minimal Effort

- **Fix Leaks:** A single leaking toilet or pipe can waste hundreds of thousands of litres per year. Leaks account for 10–30% of site water use.
- **Install Aerators:** Reduce tap flow by up to 50% without affecting usability.
- **Switch to Dual-Flush Toilets:** Save 3–5 litres per flush compared with older models.
- **Smart Outdoor Watering:** Use weather-based irrigation controls and water early morning or evening.
- **Staff Awareness:** Train staff to report leaks and avoid unnecessary water use.

These are low-cost, high-impact changes that deliver immediate savings.

Smart Investments: Future-Proofing for Long-Term Value

- **Advanced Metering:** Install smart meters or sub-meters to track use in real time.
- **Leak Detection Systems:** Acoustic or sensor-based monitoring prevents damage and waste.
- **Rainwater Harvesting:** Use for vehicle washing, toilet flushing, or irrigation.
- **HVAC Optimisation:** Maintain and optimise systems; consider dry cooling where feasible.
- **Water Recycling & Reuse:** Reuse washdown or process water for non-potable applications.

These require CapEx but deliver lasting savings and protect against supply risks.

Your Hidden Drain: The Cost of Leaks

Leaks are one of the biggest hidden costs. A single leaking toilet can waste over 200,000 litres per year. Undetected leaks account for 10–30% of total site water use.

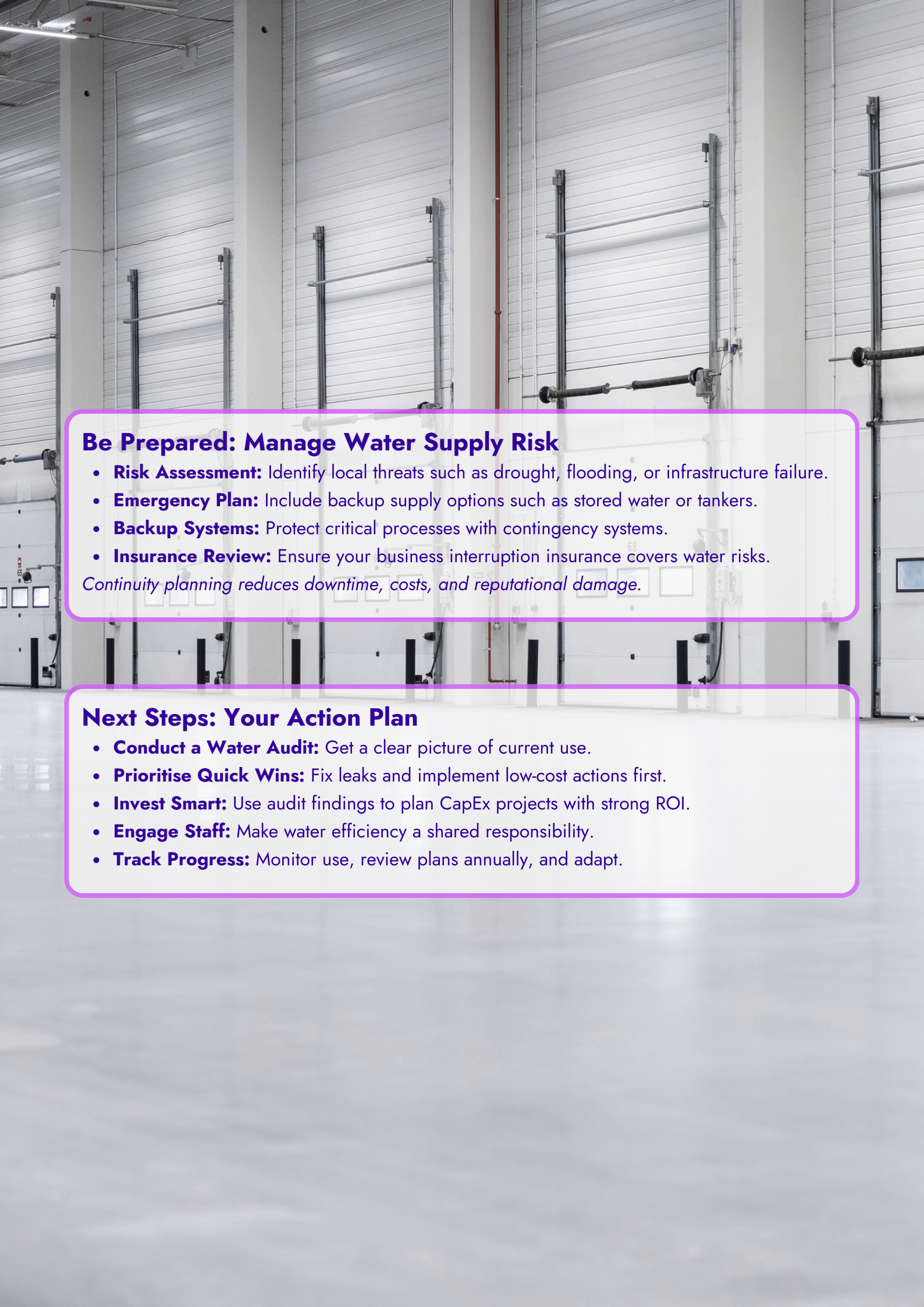
- **Conduct Regular Checks:** Visual inspections of taps, toilets, and pipes.
- **Monitor Meters:** Check readings during downtime, unexpected flow indicates leaks.
- **Use AMR/Smart Meters:** Provides 24/7 visibility and early detection of waste.

Fixing leaks is often the fastest and cheapest way to reduce water waste.

Engage Your Team & Supply Chain

- **Staff Training:** Encourage staff to report leaks and adopt water-wise practices.
- **Supplier Engagement:** Include water efficiency in procurement decisions.
- **Knowledge Sharing:** Share successes and challenges with industry peers.
- **Community Engagement:** Work with local water authorities and groups to support resilience.

Water resilience is cultural as much as technical thus collective action magnifies results.

A background image of an industrial facility with large white corrugated metal doors and vertical support beams. The scene is brightly lit, likely by overhead industrial lights.

Be Prepared: Manage Water Supply Risk

- **Risk Assessment:** Identify local threats such as drought, flooding, or infrastructure failure.
- **Emergency Plan:** Include backup supply options such as stored water or tankers.
- **Backup Systems:** Protect critical processes with contingency systems.
- **Insurance Review:** Ensure your business interruption insurance covers water risks.

Continuity planning reduces downtime, costs, and reputational damage.

Next Steps: Your Action Plan

- **Conduct a Water Audit:** Get a clear picture of current use.
- **Prioritise Quick Wins:** Fix leaks and implement low-cost actions first.
- **Invest Smart:** Use audit findings to plan CapEx projects with strong ROI.
- **Engage Staff:** Make water efficiency a shared responsibility.
- **Track Progress:** Monitor use, review plans annually, and adapt.



Need Support? Let's Talk

Want support optimising your site's water resilience? We help customers cut consumption, cut waste, improve control and reduce costs, without disruption.

Note: The figures provided are aggregated industry benchmarks. For precise data and verification, consult organisations such as Waterwise & Carbon Trust.

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