



LAUNDRIES & DRY CLEANING

Water Resilience Guide



For laundry operators water resilience is about **Cutting Costs & Staying Compliant**

Welcome to your guide on Water Resilience for Laundries & Dry Cleaning. Water is central to your business model, from washing cycles to solvent cleaning. But high volumes, rising costs, and strict discharge requirements mean water management is critical. This guide highlights where your water goes, the risks you face, and practical steps to reduce costs and improve compliance.





Why Water Matters to Your Organisation, Right Now:

- **High Costs:** Water and wastewater are major operational expenses.
- **Regulatory Scrutiny:** Discharges must meet strict environmental limits & can be expensive.
- **Customer Pressure:** Hotels, hospitals and corporate clients demand sustainable suppliers. That pass on their cost savings.
- **Resilience:** Droughts and supply interruptions can halt operations.

For laundries, water is both your lifeblood and your biggest risk; optimising use improves profit margins and customer confidence.

Your Water Footprint: Where It Goes & Why It Matters

- **Wash Cycles (60–70%):** Largest demand across commercial and domestic laundry contracts.
- **Pre-Wash & Rinse (15–20%):** Often under-optimised, can be highly effective.
- **Dry Cleaning Solvent Handling (variable):** Requires water for equipment cooling and cleaning.
- **Finishing & Pressing (5–10%):** Boilers, steam generators, humidifiers.
- **General Facilities (5–10%):** Toilets, kitchens, staff use.

Understanding cycle and boiler demand lets you prioritise where changes deliver the biggest savings.

Quick Wins: Immediate Savings, Minimal Effort

- **Full Loads Only:** Avoid part-load washes where possible. Encourage or guide customers on the right machine for their load sizes.
- **Low-Water Programmes:** Use modern washer settings potentially locking out unnecessary settings.
- **Regular Maintenance:** Check valves and seals to prevent leaks, all machines should be maintained on a regular schedule.
- **Meter Night Checks:** Spot leaks or unmonitored flows. This is where our AMR system can be invaluable.
- **Staff Training:** Best practice on load sizing and machine care and customer guidance if operating self service systems.

Simple operational changes often deliver 10–20% savings without new investment.

Smart Investments: Future-Proofing for Long-Term Value

- **Water Recycling Systems:** Capture and filter rinse water for reuse.
- **Heat Recovery & Plate Exchangers:** Reduce both water and energy costs.
- **Efficient Machines:** New industrial washers use up to 40% less water. Look for Energy labels of A+++ as well as water efficiency.
- **Closed-Loop Dry Cleaning:** Reduce solvent + water handling needs.
- **Smart Metering:** Pinpoint inefficiencies in real-time.

Modern laundry technologies can halve water use while boosting throughput and compliance.

Your Hidden Drain: The Cost of Leaks

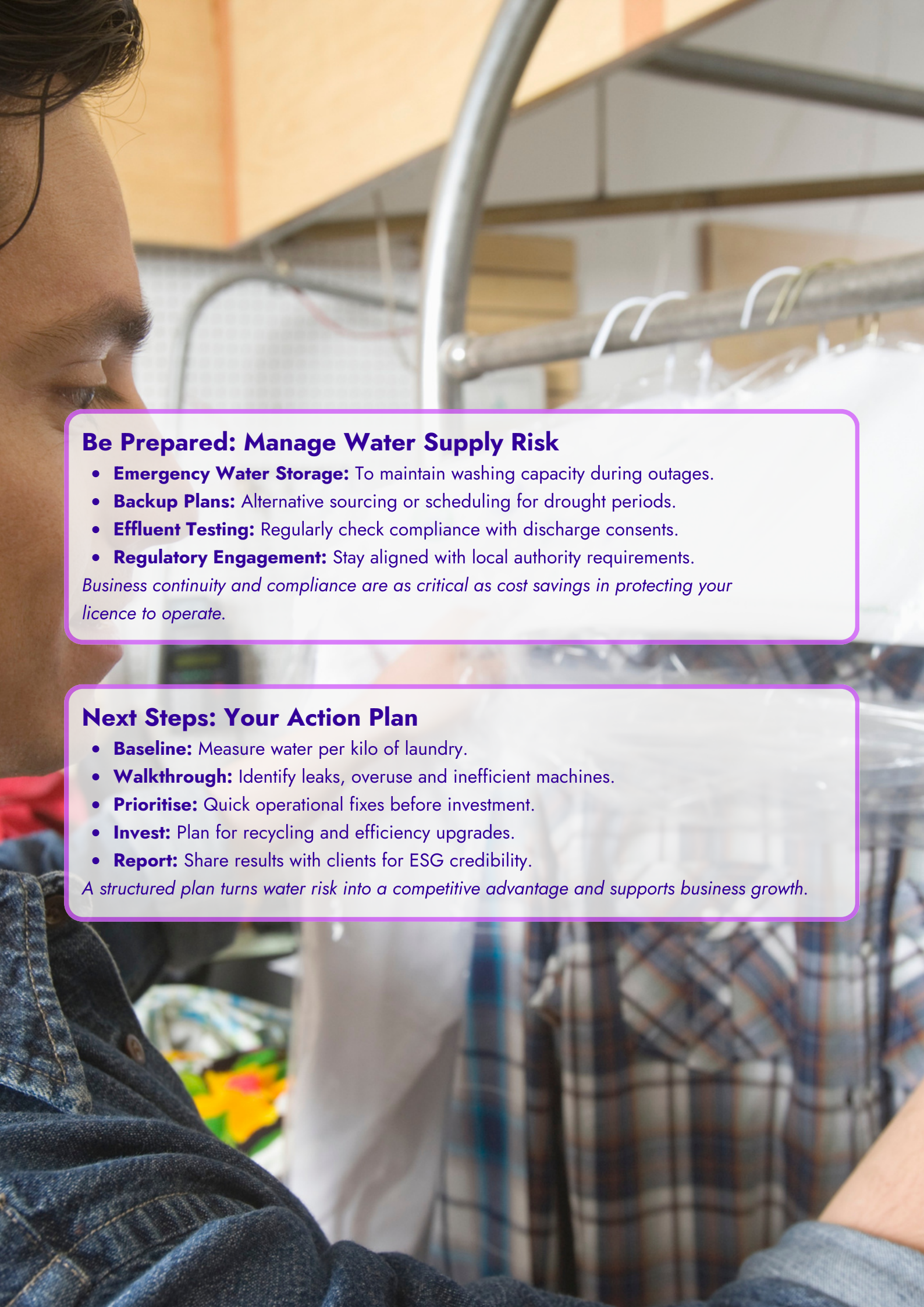
- **Over-Rinsing:** Poor programming or staff habits waste thousands of litres. Staff and customers should be aware of the difference in water usage between cycles and if they really need them!
- **Leaks in Boiler Systems:** Steam systems lose water unnoticed.
- **Outdated Equipment:** Old washers use 2–3 times more water. Upgrade to new efficient equipment at the earliest possible stage.
- **Unmonitored Night Use:** Valves or taps left running overnight. Where possible, push button/timed valves can prove invaluable to ensure water isn't wasted.

Hidden drains eat into profit margins and make regulatory breaches more likely.

Engage Your Team & Clients

- **Staff Training:** Reinforce efficient machine use and knowledge of cycles.
- **Visual Dashboards:** Show water savings progress. Smart metering gives current data to show usage.
- **Client Communication:** Market your water efficiency to win contracts, customers and further efforts to help progress.
- **Supply Chain Collaboration:** Work with detergent and equipment suppliers for more efficient solutions. They can advise when and how products help to reduce water usage even further.

Culture and external communication turn efficiency into a business advantage, not just a cost saving.

A close-up, side-profile shot of a person with dark hair and a beard, looking down at a rack of laundry. The background is slightly blurred, showing more laundry hanging on metal racks in a brightly lit room with orange and white walls.

Be Prepared: Manage Water Supply Risk

- **Emergency Water Storage:** To maintain washing capacity during outages.
- **Backup Plans:** Alternative sourcing or scheduling for drought periods.
- **Effluent Testing:** Regularly check compliance with discharge consents.
- **Regulatory Engagement:** Stay aligned with local authority requirements.

Business continuity and compliance are as critical as cost savings in protecting your licence to operate.

Next Steps: Your Action Plan

- **Baseline:** Measure water per kilo of laundry.
- **Walkthrough:** Identify leaks, overuse and inefficient machines.
- **Prioritise:** Quick operational fixes before investment.
- **Invest:** Plan for recycling and efficiency upgrades.
- **Report:** Share results with clients for ESG credibility.

A structured plan turns water risk into a competitive advantage and supports business growth.



Need Support? Let's Talk

We help laundries cut water costs, improve compliance,
and demonstrate sustainability leadership.

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