

St. Regis Atlanta: Water Savings in Style

St. Regis Atlanta: saving water for drought-stricken Georgia with stylish HETs

Case Study Highlights

Company: St. Regis Atlanta
Buckhead, Georgia

Product requirements:

- Stylish design
- Low maintenance
- Water-conserving high efficiency toilets

Solution:

- 170 Colonial 270 Round Front Plus
- 20 Colonial 270 Easy Height Round Front Plus
- 33 Sydney Low Profile 270 Easy Height Elongated

Benefits:

- No blockages and overflows
- Expected water savings up to 300,000 gallons annually
- Authentic styles to accessorize the modern bathrooms



Located in the exquisite enclave of Buckhead just a few miles from downtown Atlanta, Georgia, the St. Regis Atlanta stands out as an impeccably groomed “in-town” resort with a gracious, residential feel. At the beautifully-designed hotel, guests can expect unsurpassed pampering in this grand location.

Many hotels throughout the U.S. are located in drought-stricken states, and the St. Regis Atlanta is no different. In September 2007, Georgia officials declared the state to be in a severe drought, and since that time, water rates have been increasing rapidly. For example, between fiscal year 2007-2008 and 2008-2009, the City of Atlanta water and sewer rates increased by 27.5%, and the expected increases for the following three fiscal years are 12.5%, 12.5%, and 12% respectively. In the 2007-2008 fiscal year, a company paid \$12.09 for one hundred cubic feet

of water and sewer (ccf or 748 gallons at 7+ ccf), and for the 2011-2012 fiscal year, the same amounts will cost \$21.85/ccf.

The large rate increases combined with population growth and the fluctuation of Atlanta's two main water sources (Lakes Lanier and Allatoona) have led many companies and homeowners to install environmentally-friendly water fixtures to reduce water usage and ease the strain on the local water resources.

HETs at the St. Regis

The St. Regis Atlanta opened on April 14, 2009. To help reduce indoor water usage, the hotel owners chose Caroma high efficiency toilets (HETs) for all bathrooms. Three toilet styles were selected for the 150 guest rooms and public areas: 170 Colonial Round Front Plus, 20 Colonial Easy Height Round Front Plus, and 33 Sydney Low Profile Easy Height Elongated.

"While the review process was going on, there were several features that were critical to the St. Regis for the bathroom fixtures," states Mike Charleville, Director of Engineering. "The toilets, for example, needed to fit the style of the elegant rooms and have the appropriate options for the ADA compliant rooms and stalls. Additionally, having toilets that are low maintenance is always preferred, and water conservation is critical for our dry area."

The Colonial range of toilets from Caroma was chosen for its authentic period look and its two bowl height options: standard and Easy Height. The Sydney Low Profile range is ideal for installations that want to conserve water and require a shorter toilet due to space restrictions, such as under a counter or a grab bar in ADA installations.

All Caroma toilets are dual flush and high efficiency. The two button system allows the guest to choose how much water to use. The flushing volumes include a 1.6 gallon flush for solid waste (other models feature a 1.28 gallon full flush) and a 0.8 gallon flush for liquid and paper waste. The average flush volume for the Colonial and Sydney Low Profile is 0.96 gallons assuming a 1:4 full flush/half flush ratio.

For new toilet installations, the maximum amount of water that can be used is 1.6 gallons per flush. Because the Caroma toilets installed at the St. Regis average just 0.96 gallons per flush, one room can save more than 5 gallons per day just by using the high efficiency toilets (assumes eight flushes/room/day). Assuming a 75% occupancy rate, the St. Regis could save 575 gallons of water per day or more than 210,000 gallons per year. Including the toilets in the public restrooms, Caroma HETs could save more than 300,000 gallons of water per year for the St. Regis!

In addition to safeguarding vital water resources for the local community, the St. Regis also benefits from reduced water and sewer costs. For example, assuming 300,000 gallons of water saved per fiscal year, the savings from reduced water and sewer usage are impressive, totaling nearly \$30,000 over a four year period!

St. Regis offers guests luxury and relaxation in their modern guestrooms.



"Another major feature of the Caroma toilets that is great is that they just don't clog," explains Charleville. "We don't even have to buy plungers. I don't remember a single clog that we've had to clear. The maintenance savings is nice." Caroma toilets feature a large trapway, nearly double the industry average, making them virtually impossible to clog.

"The installation process for the Caroma toilets was very easy," continues Charleville. "We were able to get all toilets installed without any hassle." Because the toilets are installed similar to any standard North American toilet, no additional plumbing requirements exist.

In the Wall Street Journal on June 13, 2009, Laura Landro reviewed the St. Regis Atlanta in "Two Helpings of New Southern Splendor". According to Ms. Landro, "My favorite 'green' feature: a toilet with one flush button for 'half' and one for 'full'". This underscores how Caroma dual flush toilets can help hotels communicate their commitment to sustainability to their guests and the general public.

St. Regis customers have enjoyed the water conservation features as well. "In addition to Caroma's high efficiency toilets, we also have eco-friendly showerheads, faucets, and aerators for a complete package," explains Charleville. "We are often receiving requests from customers asking for more information on the products installed because they like the style and that they help protect the environment. We are extremely pleased with the Caroma toilets. They are the best thing I've seen out there for style and water conservation."

Right photo: Colonial 270 HET in St. Regis Atlanta guest room.

Photo below: Sydney Low Profile 270 HET in St. Regis Atlanta guest room. Ideal for ADA installations.



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*Mike Charleville
Director of Engineering
St. Regis Atlanta*

Colonial and Sydney Low Profile

Colonial 270



Authentic look, modern performance

- High efficiency toilet (HET) - 1.6/0.8 gallons (6/3 litres) per flush
- Two piece, two button dual flush toilet
- Large fully concealed trapway
- Virtually unblockable
- 10-12" adjustable rough-in
- WaterSense labeled

Dimensions

Round Front Plus: 29"L x 14 3/4"W x 34 1/4"H (bowl height = 15")

Easy Height Round Front Plus: 29"L x 14 3/8"W x 35 1/2"H (bowl height = 16")

Sydney Low Profile 270 Easy Height Elongated



Minimal height, maximum performance

- High efficiency toilet (HET) - 1.6/0.8 gallons (6/3 litres) per flush
- Two piece, two button dual flush toilet
- Large fully concealed trapway
- Virtually unblockable
- 10-12" adjustable rough-in
- WaterSense labeled

Dimensions

31 1/4"L x 18 3/4"W x 28 3/4"H (bowl height = 17")

Sydney Low Profile 270 also available in Round Front Plus, Easy Height Round Front Plus, and Elongated.

Additional information available

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