

# water use and minimisation

Water that meets potability standards for human use is rapidly becoming our most precious resource due to population increases, diminishing rainfall and contamination of our existing sources.

## Reducing water use and production of wastewater

There are several options to reduce your water use and in turn also reduce the volume of wastewater requiring treatment.

- Capture and re-use of caustic based cleaning solutions when cleaning tanks. This not only recycles water and cleaning products it eases some of the wastewater management issues.
- Ozonised water can be used in some tank and barrel washing situations and can negate the need for the potassium or sodium hydroxide washing process that is usually followed by an acid or neutralising rinse.
- Set up two clearly identifiable water ring mains in the winery. One being scheme water for priority use, with the other system being treated winery waste water or possibly bore water for wash down purposes.
- High pressure, low volume cleaning of barrels, floors, tanks etc is more effective and uses less water.
- All hoses should have a hose gun attached that automatically shuts off.
- When possible, use brooms, squeegees and shovels rather than a hose when cleaning work areas.
- Cover all drains with a suitable mesh to stop larger waste material going into your wastewater system and blocking drains.
- Transfer waste bentonite, lees and DE to a dedicated tank for settling and removal by alternative means as these products block drains and add to downstream management issues in your waste water.
- Install water meters in different production zones to track water use performance, identify leaks and set targets for water reductions. This would be incorporated into the sites Environmental Management System (EMS).
- Consider conducting a detailed water audit to identify problem areas and prioritise solutions.
- Consider using rainwater and stormwater collected from the site for activities such as wash-downs and toilet flushing.
- Recycle the water used for leak testing barrels.
- Introduce automatic cleaning systems, to reduce both water and chemical use.

