

FOR TEACHERS, SCHOOLS

School Water Audit

How to do a water audit at your school

By doing a water audit at your school you can help reduce water wastage by identifying areas where water is being wasted and devising ways to minimize this wastage.

Here are some ideas to assist you with the water audit.

Before the water audit

1. Undertake a water conservation education program such as Every Drop Counts in Schools teaching resource. Click on the following link:
<http://www.sydneywater.com.au/Publications/Factsheets/EveryDropCountsInSchools.pdf#Page=1>
2. Show students Sydney Water's short DVD on how to do a water audit in schools (available for loan from Sustainable Living Tasmania). The 7 minute DVD will guide you through the water audit process and assist you to develop your school's water savings action plan. Please call Sydney Water on 1800 724 650 to obtain your free copy (one per school).
3. Look at the school's water bills over a two-year period. Identify changes in water use over time. What is the average water consumption per student?
4. Obtain a map of the school. Identify the location of all water outlets such as toilets, showers, sinks, indoor and outdoor taps.
5. Make a school community commitment to water education and water conservation and inform the school community (students, staff and parents) about the date of the water audit.
7. Arrange for an adult or student leader (teacher, teacher's aide, general assistant, parent, SRC) to assist a group of students to undertake the water audit, if practicable. This will require a time commitment of approximately 2 hours.

On the day of the water audit

1. Remind staff and students that the water audit will be taking place and students will require access to all areas of the school for approximately 30 minutes.
2. Brief team leaders (teacher, teacher's aide, general assistant, parent, SRC) on the water audit process.
3. Organise the class into water audit groups and appoint a team leader, recorder and reporter.
4. Provide students with work sheets, pencils and a map of the school grounds and buildings. Worksheets are provided in Every Drop Counts in Schools education resource.
5. Remind students of health and safety rules.
6. Each team leader reports on the results of their audit area.
7. Identify areas of water wastage and develop a school water savings action plan.

Equipment

- A clip board for group leaders
- Buckets and/or one litre jugs

- Stop watches
- Tape measures
- Disposable gloves

The Audit

See [School water audit – simple](#) and [school water audit – more complex](#)

After the water audit

1. Develop a school water savings action plan. Identify short and long term water saving targets.
2. Inform the school community (students, staff and parents) of the outcomes of the water audit.
3. Establish a school protocol for reporting leaking taps and pipes.

Ongoing water education and water conservation strategies

1. Integrate water education and water conservation across all classes.
2. Undertake a school water audit annually.
3. Review and update your school water savings action plan annually.
4. Communicate and celebrate water saving achievements.
5. Integrate water saving strategies and outcomes into school policies.
6. Share your ideas and achievements with other schools and the wider community.