



Water use survey

What is a water use survey?

Carrying out a water use survey will help you to identify areas where you might be able to save water.

As your group surveys an area of the school discuss what you expect results to show. Does the area of the school use a lot of water? What could you do to reduce water wastage in this area of the school?

Safety notes

1. When measuring water flows it is best to turn on the tap slowly before you start measuring to assess the water pressure, so water is not spilt on the floors. If water does go on the floors make sure you wipe it up – it could cause an accident if left.
2. When measuring flow from hot taps check the temperature before you start measuring. If it is too hot don't carry out the measurement – if the water is too hot it may cause scolding.

General questions

School Name:

Postcode: _ _ _ _

Average annual water use: _____ m³ per pupil per year

[Note: see the [How much water does your school use?](#) section of this website to see how to work this out]



Water use survey

Classrooms

What you will need:

- Stopwatch
- Beaker - borrow a beaker that's as large as possible whilst at the same time fitting into sinks and hand basins under the taps
- Large measuring cylinder

Do you have any dripping taps?

Record the number of taps and also the number of those taps that are dripping in the boxes below. If you find any dripping taps, record where they are. After the survey, tell your teacher who can pass on the details to the caretaker or site manager so they can be fixed.

Number of taps

Number of dripping taps

- | | |
|----------------|--------------------------|
| None | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Less than half | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| More than half | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| All off them | <input type="checkbox"/> |

What types of taps do you have?

(Note: You can tick more than one box)

- | | |
|----------------|--------------------------|
| Pillar taps | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Push taps | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Infra-red taps | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Aerated taps | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Glossary

Pillar taps – a standard tap you turn to release to the water.

Push taps – the tap turns on when you apply pressure and turns off after a few seconds when you release the pressure.

Infra-red taps – a motion sensor turns on the tap and after a few seconds when you move away it turns off

Aerated taps – Taps that have air introduced into the flow of water. The water can feel soft and bubbly



Water use survey

Measure the taps flow to see how efficient the taps in your classrooms are

Turn the tap on full. Take your beaker place it under the tap for five seconds. Remove the beaker and turn off the tap. Then pour the water collected in the beaker into the large measuring cylinder. Then multiply the volume collected by 12 to give you a litre per minute flow rate. [Note: If you measuring cylinder units are in ml you will need to convert this to litres. Please see the worked example below.]

Worked example:

$$30\text{ml} \times 12 = 360 \text{ ml per minute}$$

$$360 \text{ ml per minute} \div 100 = 3.6 \text{ litres per minute}$$

Below 3.6 litres per minute

Between 3.6 and 6 litres per minute

Between 6 and 10 litres per min

Over 10 litres per minute

Below 3.6 litres per minute

All

Most

Some

None

Between 3.6 and 6 litres per minute

All

Most

Some

None

Between 6 and 10 litres per minute

All

Most

Some

None

Over 10 litres per minute

All

Most

Some

None



Water use survey

How long do the push or infra-red in the classrooms run for?

There are no push or infra-red taps in the classrooms

If there are push or infra- red taps in your classrooms, use a stopwatch to time how long run for:

Less than 6 seconds

Between 6 and 10 seconds

Between 10 and 15 seconds

Above 15 seconds

Less than 6 seconds

- All
- Most
- Some
- None

Between 6 and 10 seconds

- All
- Most
- Some
- None

Between 10 and 15 seconds

- All
- Most
- Some
- None

Above 15 seconds

- All
- Most
- Some
- None



Water use survey

Girls washrooms

What you will need:

- Stopwatch
- Beaker - borrow a beaker that's as large as possible whilst at the same time fitting into sinks and hand basins under the taps
- Large measuring cylinder

Do you have any dripping taps?

Record the number of taps and also the number of those taps that are dripping in the boxes below. If you find any dripping taps, record where they are. After the survey, tell your teacher who can pass on the details to the caretaker or site manager so they can be fixed.

Number of taps

Number of dripping taps

- None
- Less than half
- More than half
- All off them

What types of taps do you have?

(Note: You can tick more than one box)

- Pillar taps
- Push taps
- Infra-red taps
- Aerated taps

Glossary

Pillar taps – a standard tap you turn to release to the water.

Push taps – the tap turns on when you apply pressure and turns off after a few seconds when you release the pressure.

Infra-red taps – a motion sensor turns on the tap and after a few seconds when you move away it turns off

Aerated taps – Taps that have air introduced into the flow of water. The water can feel soft and bubbly



Water use survey

Measure the taps flow to see how efficient the taps in the girls washrooms are

Turn the tap on full. Take your beaker place it under the tap for five seconds. Remove the beaker and turn off the tap. Then pour the water collected in the beaker into the large measuring cylinder. Then multiply the volume collected by 12 to give you a litre per minute flow rate. [Note: If you measuring cylinder units are in ml you will need to convert this to litres. Please see the worked example below.]

Worked example:

$$30\text{ml} \times 12 = 360 \text{ ml per minute}$$

$$360 \text{ ml per minute} \div 100 = 3.6 \text{ litres per minute}$$

Below 3.6 litres per minute

Between 3.6 and 6 litres per minute

Between 6 and 10 litres per min Over 10 litres per minute

Below 3.6 litres per minute

- All
- Most
- Some
- None

Between 3.6 and 6 litres per minute

- All
- Most
- Some
- None

Between 6 and 10 litres per minute

- All
- Most
- Some
- None

Over 10 litres per minute

- All
- Most
- Some
- None



Water use survey

How long do the push or infra-red in the classrooms run for?

There are no push or infra-red taps in the classrooms

If there are push or infra- red taps in your classrooms, use a stopwatch to time how long run for:

Less than 6 seconds

Between 6 and 10 seconds

Between 10 and 15 seconds Above 15 seconds

Less than 6 seconds

- All
- Most
- Some
- None

Between 6 and 10 seconds

- All
- Most
- Some
- None

Between 10 and 15 seconds

- All
- Most
- Some
- None

Above 15 seconds

- All
- Most
- Some
- None



Water use survey

Toilets

What types of toilets do you have?

High level tank

Single flush

Dual flush

High level tank

- All
- Most
- Some
- None

Single flush

- All
- Most
- Some
- None

Dual flush

- All
- Most
- Some
- None

Glossary

High level tank toilets - if you have these toilets the cistern will be raised nearer to the ceiling than the floor and will have a chain that you pull to flush the toilet.

Single flush – to find out if you have this type of toilet look for a single handle that flushes the toilet.

Dual flush - Toilets with two flush settings one for liquid and one for solid removal.



Water use survey

Boys washrooms

What you will need:

- Stopwatch
- Beaker - borrow a beaker that's as large as possible whilst at the same time fitting into sinks and hand basins under the taps
- Large measuring cylinder

Do you have any dripping taps?

Record the number of taps and also the number of those taps that are dripping in the boxes below. If you find any dripping taps, record where they are. After the survey, tell your teacher who can pass on the details to the caretaker or site manager so they can be fixed.

Number of taps

Number of dripping taps

- | | |
|----------------|--------------------------|
| None | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Less than half | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| More than half | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| All off them | <input type="checkbox"/> |

What types of taps do you have?

(Note: You can tick more than one box)

- | | |
|----------------|--------------------------|
| Pillar taps | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Push taps | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Infra-red taps | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Aerated taps | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Glossary

Pillar taps – a standard tap you turn to release to the water.

Push taps – the tap turns on when you apply pressure and turns off after a few seconds when you release the pressure.

Infra-red taps – a motion sensor turns on the tap and after a few seconds when you move away it turns off

Aerated taps – Taps that have air introduced into the flow of water. The water can feel soft and bubbly



Water use survey

Measure the taps flow to see how efficient the taps in the boys washrooms are

Turn the tap on full. Take your beaker place it under the tap for five seconds. Remove the beaker and turn off the tap. Then pour the water collected in the beaker into the large measuring cylinder. Then multiply the volume collected by 12 to give you a litre per minute flow rate. [Note: If you measuring cylinder units are in ml you will need to convert this to litres. Please see the worked example below.]

Worked example:

$$30\text{ml} \times 12 = 360 \text{ ml per minute}$$

$$360 \text{ ml per minute} \div 100 = 3.6 \text{ litres per minute}$$

Below 3.6 litres per minute

Between 3.6 and 6 litres per minute

Between 6 and 10 litres per min Over 10 litres per minute

Below 3.6 litres per minute

- All
- Most
- Some
- None

Between 3.6 and 6 litres per minute

- All
- Most
- Some
- None

Between 6 and 10 litres per minute

- All
- Most
- Some
- None

Over 10 litres per minute

- All
- Most
- Some
- None



Water use survey

How long do the push or infra-red in the boys washrooms run for?

There are no push or infra-red taps in the boys washrooms

If there are push or infra- red taps in your classrooms, use a stopwatch to time how long run for:

Less than 6 seconds

Between 6 and 10 seconds

Between 10 and 15 seconds Above 15 seconds

Less than 6 seconds

- All
- Most
- Some
- None

Between 6 and 10 seconds

- All
- Most
- Some
- None

Between 10 and 15 seconds

- All
- Most
- Some
- None

Above 15 seconds

- All
- Most
- Some
- None



Water use survey

Toilets

What types of toilets do you have?

High level tank

Single flush

Dual flush

High level tank

- All
- Most
- Some
- None

Single flush

- All
- Most
- Some
- None

Dual flush

- All
- Most
- Some
- None

Glossary

High level tank toilets - if you have these toilets the cistern will be raised nearer to the ceiling than the floor and will have a chain that you pull to flush the toilet.

Single flush – to find out if you have this type of toilet look for a single handle that flushes the toilet.

Dual flush - Toilets with two flush settings one for liquid and one for solid removal.



Water use survey

URINALS

Are the urinals in your school controlled or uncontrolled?

Uncontrolled

Controlled

Uncontrolled

- All
- Most
- Some
- None

Controlled

- All
- Most
- Some
- None

Glossary

Uncontrolled urinals - an uncontrolled urinal flushes a pre-set number of times a day whether or not it is being used. Controlled urinals - sensor triggers a urinal flush when the urinal is used, the control may also flush a few times a day to keep the urinals clean, this is known as a hygiene flush. There are many different types of controls available.



Water use survey

Shower rooms

What you will need:

- Stopwatch
- Beaker - borrow a beaker that's as large as possible whilst at the same time fitting into sinks and hand basins under the taps
- Large measuring cylinder

How are the showers operated?

- Standard
- Push
- Single on/off switch

Glossary

Standard – works when the tap is turned on or off by the user
Push – the tap turns on when you apply pressure and turns off after a few seconds/ minutes when you release the pressure.
Single on/off switch – all the showers are turned on or off by a single switch or button.

Are any of the showers dripping?

- None
- Less than half
- More than half
- All of them



Water use survey

Measure the flow rate of your showers to see how efficient they are.

Below 7.5 litres per minute

- All
- Most
- Some
- None

Between 7.5 litres per minute and 10 litres per minute

- All
- Most
- Some
- None

Between 10 litres per minute and 15 litres per minute

- All
- Most
- Some
- None

Above 15 litres per minute

- All
- Most
- Some
- None



Water use survey

School grounds

Does your school water plants on the school grounds?

- No
- Yes

If so, what types of plant watering methods are used in your school grounds?

- Hosepipes
- No
 - Yes, with a trigger nozzle
 - Yes without a trigger nozzle

- Sprinklers
- No
 - Yes, with a timer
 - Yes, without a timer

- Water butts
- No
 - Yes

Swimming pool

Does your school have a swimming pool?

- No
- Yes

If you do have a swimming pool, do you have a pool cover?

- No
- Yes

Glossary

trigger nozzle – attaches onto a hose and releases water from the hose when you press down on the trigger.

Sprinkler timer – allows the user to programme the length of time the sprinkler should run for.



Water use survey

[Teachers hat]

Underground leaks

Do you have any underground leaks?

You can spot the start of an underground leak by seeing a jump in the cost of the school's bill without any other explanation e.g. new building/ new term etc. You could also use your meter readings to check for a leak for further information please see Underground leaks information sheet.

No

Yes



Water use survey

Catering

What you will need:

- Stopwatch
- Beaker - borrow a beaker that's as large as possible whilst at the same time fitting into sinks and hand basins under the taps
- Large measuring cylinder

Do you have any dripping taps?

Record the number of taps and also the number of those taps that are dripping in the boxes below. If you find any dripping taps, record where they are. After the survey, tell your teacher who can pass on the details to the caretaker or site manager so they can be fixed.

Number of taps

Number of dripping taps

- None
- Less than half
- More than half
- All off them

Do you have pillar taps in your school kitchens?

- No
- Yes

Glossary

Pillar taps - a standard tap you turn to release the water.



Water use survey

Measure your taps' flow to see how efficient they are.

Below 12 litres per minute

- All
- Most
- Some
- None

Between 12 and 15 litres per minute

- All
- Most
- Some
- None

Between 15 and 20 litres per min

- All
- Most
- Some
- None

Over 20 litres per minute

- All
- Most
- Some
- None

Do the kitchen staff wash the kitchen by hosing it down?

- No
- Yes