School water audit

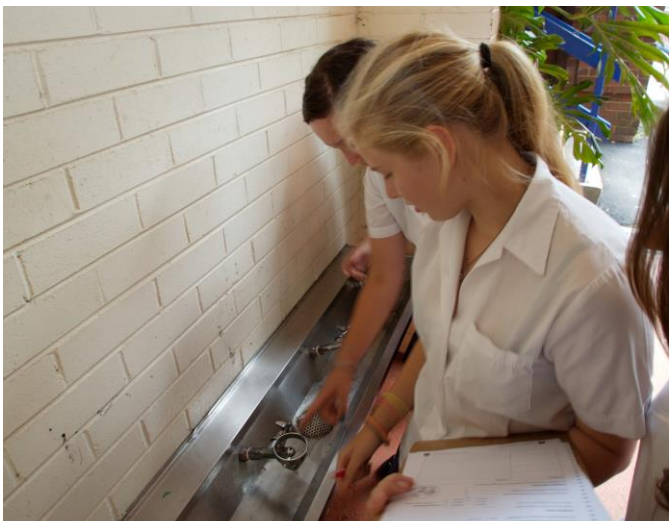
What is an audit?

Do you know how many taps your school has or how many bubblers are leaking?

A school audit is a way of finding out:

- how many water devices your school has and how efficient they are. A device is something like a tap, bubbler or toilet that releases water.
- which areas of the school might be causing problems.

By doing an audit you can work out how water efficient your school is, describe areas where water is wasted and suggest ideas to improve the school water use.



You can audit your school to find out how water efficient it is.

How do I know if a water device is efficient?

A water efficient device may:

- automatically turn off and can't be left on
- doesn’t have a handle (like a tap without a handle that can only be used by certain people like cleaners)
- has a low flow rate - this means it releases less water when turned on. Fast flow rates waste water and can be slowed with special fittings called flow restrictors or tap aerators that screw on the end of a tap.

Examples of water efficient devices include spring loaded taps (taps that turn of automatically), headless taps (taps with no handles), dual flush toilets, waterless urinals, low flow taps and showers.

An inefficient device is one that can easily be left on, wastes water by dripping or leaking and releases a lot of water when turned on.

Conducting an audit

Before you start an audit

- Practice using a tally to count devices and a stopwatch to measure leaks and flows.

On the day of the audit

1. Select a group leader, recorder and reporter for your water audit group.
2. Study your audit area on the school map. Remember that some schools have multi-storey buildings and you have to do all the rooms in your area. It is important to stay in your group's audit area. If an area is locked, ask a nearby teacher about the devices in the locked room.
3. Use the team audit record sheet to fill in information about the devices in your area using a tally. Remember to stay in your area, be polite to teachers when you go to their rooms, listen to your teacher's instructions and return to your classroom as soon as you have finished auditing your area.
4. For each leaking tap you find (a tap that can't be turned off properly), hold the measuring jug under the tap and, using the stopwatch or watch, work out how much water is wasted in one minute. Write this information under the table and put a mark where the leaking device is on the map.

After the water audit

At the end of the water audit:

1. Add together each group's tally to get the total number of devices.
2. Add the leaking devices from each group's map onto a class map to show where all the leaking devices are.
3. Calculate how much water could be lost through leaking devices in a year by adding up all the millilitres of water lost from each group's audit sheet using the table below.

School water lost through leakages				
A	**B**	**C**	**D**	**E**
Water lost in one minute	Water lost in one hour (A × 60)	Water lost in 24 hours (B × 24)	Converted to litres (C ÷ 1000)	Water lost in a year (D × 365)
A = mL	B = mL	C = mL	D = mL	E = mL

4. Give the information to your Principal so that leaking devices can get repaired.
5. Discuss your audit findings (the class total) and ways you can help your school become more water efficient.

Audit recording sheet

In your audit group, complete the table using a tally.

School water audit				
Water devices	**Number of devices**	**Number of water efficient devices**	**Number broken or leaking**	**Number dripping**
Toilets				
Urinals				
Bubblers				
Taps				
Zips/Hot water heaters				
Showers				
Others				
Group total				

Water lost through leaks	
Water device name	**Millilitres of water lost in one minute**