



Saving School Water - Teacher's Notes

School Water Use Audit - Thirteen Suggestions

Your school's ability to save water and to use it efficiently will depend on the age of its buildings, climate, community involvement and funding. The Water Corporation program for "waterwise" schools can be accessed at: <https://www.watercorporation.com.au/Education>

Some suggestions follow to help students identify actions at school which can conserve water resources.

1. Set a tap to "drip" into a measuring cylinder or jug. Estimate how much water would be lost if students didn't turn taps off properly. (1L is about 4,000 drips)
2. If washers in taps are not renewed regularly, they will drip. Who would you tell in your school if you found a dripping tap?
3. Younger students may not be strong enough to turn off a tap properly. Older students should help them.



4. Toilets should be dual flush to minimize water use. In some Japanese schools "intelligent" toilets are installed. There the water used to wash your hands is held in a basin at the top of the toilet then channeled down to flush the toilet too! These toilets are common in Japanese houses also.

5. Where possible, taps in toilets should be spring loaded to switch themselves off automatically.





Saving School Water - Teacher's Notes

6. Lawns and gardens should only be watered on the correct days and at the correct times, early in the morning and in the evening. Water sprayed in the middle of the day is mostly evaporated. Sprinkler systems should be adjusted to work automatically and to not operate during rainy seasons.
7. Where possible, waterwise planting with native plants or plants with low water needs is advised.
8. Applying mulch and compost retains water in soils.
9. Does your school have a worm farm? How would that help retain water?
10. Drip irrigation uses less water than sprinklers and more water reaches plant roots.
11. Trees and bushes provide shade and humidify the air around them. Treat them with respect.
12. Is water collected from the roof channeled into the garden beds and water tanks?
13. Use sealed paths around grassed areas rather than walking across them. This creates bare dry areas.



Q: Who is responsible for stopping water waste at your school?

A: EVERYBODY!

