

Hints and tips: Sustainable Water Use

Water is essential to all life on earth and therefore must not be wasted.

1. Autoclaves and glasswashers

- Consolidate items and only run when full – set times for autoclave runs.
- Do items really need to be sterile?



2. Condensers

- Replace water condensers with waterless condensers.

3. Aspirators

- Replace water aspirators with vacuum pumps.



4. Water baths

- Where possible replace the use of water with Armor beads.

5. Water purity

- Make sure you are using the correct level of purity without using water that is over pure for your needs.
 - Tap** - Fine for washing hands but contains dissolved ions and salts and is therefore not ideal for making reagents that can be affected by these materials.
 - De-ionised** - Tap water is treated to remove ions that carry an electric charge, low levels of ions will remain.
 - Milli-Q** - The de-ionised water is processed through a Millipore Milli-Q system to remove any other soluble materials present and produce “ultra-pure” water that contains trace amounts of organic, inorganic, bacteria and other particulates.
 - Molecular grade** - This nuclease-free water contains no DNase or RNase activity and can be used in experiments with highly sensitive biomolecules such as DNA and RNA.



6. Maintenance

- Report any leaking taps immediately.

