

School water audit

Teacher's guide



School water audit - Teacher's guide

Follow our step-by-step guide on how to carry out a water audit in your school and you could not only reduce water consumption but also save your school money too.



Water's worth saving

Water is our most valuable resource and because it's so precious, it's really important that we all do our bit to save water. Every drop really does count! You can help save water by making small changes to the way you use it and by spotting sneaky leaks.

Schools can benefit greatly by performing water audits, so we've put together this guide full of useful tips and tricks to help you start saving your school water and money.

In this guide you will:

- **Identify all the areas in your school where water is used**
- **Learn how to read a water meter and find out your school's daily and weekly water usage**
- **Explore school grounds to detect leaks and make a record of them**
- **Create an action plan for your school to keep saving water and money**

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Section 1

Let's get started

Before carrying out your school water audit, you will need to review your school's water use to help identify where water is used the most.

United Utilities have teamed up with Mad Science's Turbo Tom to help you and your class learn more about the following:

- Identify where water is used around school
- Understand how water is measured

Classroom activity:

Watch our video of Turbo Tom to learn more about where water is used at school, and how it's measured.

Click, search or scan:

[Eco club - where water is used at school and how it's measured](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dNFzwJD_b44)



www.youtube.com/watch?v=dNFzwJD_b44



Section 2

How to take a meter reading

Activity:

Locate your school water meter and take a meter reading.

Now that your class understand how water is measured and where water is mostly used at school, it's time to find out where your school water meter is located. For this activity you will need your school caretaker to accompany your group (they will also need to make a note of the reading).

Reading your water meter is a great way to help monitor your school's water use and you can even use your water meter to help you spot any sneaky leaks. The water coming into your school flows through the water meter, which is fitted to a water pipe.

Once you find your school's water meter, you will be able to see number dials which turn slowly to give a reading. If you can see the dials moving, then it means water is being used somewhere in your school.

To read the meter you will need to look at the first digits – if your school has an older style meter, there will be a dial whereas newer meters have digital displays.

How to take a meter reading (for this section please refer to Worksheet 1):

- > **STEP 1:** Remember, safety first! Children must always be accompanied by an adult.
- > **STEP 2:** To read the meter you will need to look at the first digits – if your school has an older style meter, there will be a dial, whereas newer metres have digital displays. Make a note of the numbers shown on the water meter in the morning.
- > **STEP 3:** Return to your school water meter in the afternoon and make another note of the numbers shown on the water meter again.
- > **STEP 4:** Subtract the first meter read from your second meter read, this is your daily usage.
- > **STEP 5:** Repeat steps 1-4 for the rest of the week and again on Monday morning (this is so you can work out weekend water usage). Add all daily totals together to work out your school's weekly usage.

Worksheet 1
Water meter reading

Water meter reading

Location of your school's water meter:

Week beginning:

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Monday morning (weekend usage)
1st reading (school start)						
2nd reading (school end)						
Daily usage total						

United Utilities
Water for the North West

Weekly usage

Section 3

How to perform a water audit

Now that you have recorded your water meter readings it's time to begin locating and recording any leaks around your school.

Make sure you think about any potential health and safety risks before you start. In this section Turbo Tom will help you and your class learn more about the following:

- How to identify leaks around your school
- How to measure the amount of water wasted (dripping taps)

Classroom activity:

Watch our video of Turbo Tom to find out how to perform a water audit in your school to help spot sneaky leaks.



Click, search or scan:
[Water at School](#)

www.youtube.com/watch?v=TS0Tlv2mBCY



Section 4

Find and record leaks around your school

Activity:

How to perform a water audit (for this section please refer to worksheet 2):

- > **STEP 1:** Remember, safety first! Children must always be accompanied by an adult.
- > **STEP 2:** Make a note of all the places where water is used around your school. How many toilets are there, are there taps in some classrooms, does your school have a garden, etc.
- > **STEP 3:** Make a note of where you are performing the water audit e.g. Girl's toilets, and then note any dripping taps that you spot. Even if you don't spot a dripping tap, sometimes someone might leave one of the taps running. So, it might be a good idea to put a sticker nearby to remind them to turn off the tap.



- > **STEP 4:** Leaking toilets are one of the biggest culprits for wasted water, but there are a few steps you can take to spot one:
 - LOOK** into the bowl for any signs of trickling, rippling or flowing water between flushes.
 - LISTEN** for the sound of water as it trickles into the bowl or a faint hissing sound as the cistern is constantly refilling.
 - TEST** (a teacher or caretaker will need to perform this part of the audit, and don't forget to use gloves), another way to check for leaks is to wait half an hour after the last flush, dry the back of the toilet bowl before placing a piece of dry toilet paper on it. You'll soon see the toilet paper get wet if water is trickling down into the toilet from the cistern. If you spot this is happening, you've probably got a leaky loo. Don't forget to check urinals too.
- > **STEP 5:** Once you have a record of all the areas that water is being wasted, report them to your caretaker who will be able to help get them fixed.

Worksheet 2
School water audit

Water audit					United Utilities Water for the North West
Location	Type: tap/toilet/urinal	Describe the problem	Action taken	Notes	
Example: Girls toilets	Toilet - dual push button flush	Toilet constantly flowing	Reported to teacher - Mrs Doe	Added leak label	

Section 5

Our top tips to help your school save water

Now you have taken meter readings and identified leaks around your school, it's time to create an action plan, so your school can carry on saving water and money.

In your action plan you should include targets to help reduce the amount of water being used. In this section Turbo Tom will help you and your class set up your action plan:

- Carry out regular water checks
- Create a campaign
- Save water in the garden
- Water saving champions

Classroom activity:

Watch our video of Turbo Tom to find out how you can create an action plan to keep saving water and money for your school.

[Click, search or scan:](#)
[Top tips to save water at school](#)

[www.youtube.com/
watch?v=iFdNhFzAHRk](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iFdNhFzAHRk)



Section 6

Setting up an action plan

We have some fantastic water saving tips that could come in useful for your action plan, remember even saving a small amount of water helps in the long run.

- > don't forget to turn off the tap
- > report leaks to your school caretaker
- > collect rainwater with a water butt and use a watering can to water plants
- > only use what you need and think about ways you can reuse water

You can find more useful top tips on saving water by visiting our website:

[unitedutilities.com/
help-and-support/
save-water](https://unitedutilities.com/help-and-support/save-water)

Classroom activity:

Let's get creative and create a campaign (for this section please refer to the school water audit pack for inspiration).

- Create save water posters
- Design your own stickers
- Organise school and community events
- Assign tap monitor roles



