

Reverse Osmosis (RO) Water

What is it?

Reverse Osmosis is a process used to purify water. It uses pressure to force water through a membrane, retaining the salt on one side, and letting pure water to pass through on the other side.



Why is RO Water used?

Most labs need pure water for teaching, research, and processes like rinsing.

What is the environmental cost?

RO water production is energy and water intensive. It takes approximately 5 litres of town water to produce 1 litre of RO water.

The process also produces significant volumes of contaminated wastewater that is high in Total Dissolved Salts (TDSs). This means the wastewater needs to be sent to the sewer.

What you can do:

Only use RO water when necessary, and only produce enough for the task.

Use the lowest grade of water appropriate to the task.

Switch off the device when not in use, especially overnight and on weekends.

Ensure regular maintenance and replacements of filters to increase lifespan of RO membrane.

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