Water Efficient Labs

Labs use more water than teaching and office spaces at UQ. Labs can employ water-saving practices around experiments, equipment cooling, and air conditioning.

Air conditioning
Water used for cooling towers (air conditioning systems) is managed by P&F. However, lab users can reduce the load on the air conditioning system through actions like minimising the time ovens and heaters are operating and shutting the fume cupboard sash.

Cleaning
When washing labware, put the plug in and fill the sink rather than using running water, or reduce the flow to a minimum that will effectively clean the items.

If a dishwasher is used, wait until it is fully loaded before starting.

Dilution
Only run taps as long as necessary while diluting chemicals, or use a measuring cylinder to get exact volumes.

Once-pass cooling
Cooling lab equipment using once-pass water is very inefficient because the water comes from the tap, flows over the area to be cooled, and flows straight down the sink.

If once-pass cooling equipment is being used, contact P&F to change to recirculated water instead. Sterilisers and autoclaves can also be retrofitted by P&F to save water. If equipment cannot be retrofitted, ensure it is set to minimum effective water flow rates and pressure, and is turned off when not in use.

Reverse osmosis and water distillers
RO water and distillers often run continuously, so be sure to switch them off overnight or on weekends.

Leaks
Report all leaks to pfassist@pf.uq.edu.au. Leaks are common on taps, toilets and equipment seals that use water.