

# 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](mailto:pfassist@pf.uq.edu.au). Leaks are common on taps, toilets and equipment seals that use water

CRICOS Provider 00025B (113886)

### The Sustainability Office

Property and Facilities Division  
The University of Queensland  
Brisbane Qld 4072 Australia

T 07 3365 1587 or 07 3365 2076

E [sustainability@uq.edu.au](mailto:sustainability@uq.edu.au)

W [sustainability.uq.edu.au](http://sustainability.uq.edu.au)

f [facebook.com/UQSustainability](https://facebook.com/UQSustainability)



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