

Type of Bath

The type of bath will affect its functionality and how suitable it is for specific experiments.

Options to consider:

- **Unstirred baths**
These are the most commonly used in education settings, as they are cost effective, simple to use and suitable for most general heating experiments
- **Stirred baths**
These offer better temperature uniformity, and should be considered for higher level practical's where greater accuracy is required to ensure reliable results
- **Shaking baths**
These are rarely found in school science departments, but essential for heating of samples that require consistent agitation e.g. cell culturing

Maintenance & Durability

Higher end water baths can feel like a huge investment, but if you get it right, your new water bath could be in the department for over 20 years, even with lots of regular use!

What to consider:

- **Corrosion resistance**
Models which use corrosion resistant stainless steel offer greater longevity than those which do not
- **Drains**
Models with an external drain are easier to use than those without
- **Manufacturer support and warranties**
Some manufacturers offer an excellent warranty, and even a spare parts and repair service after the warranty period runs out

Safety Features

Probably the most important factor to consider when purchasing a water bath – it's important to ensure your chosen product is safe for use by both students and staff. All baths offered by SLS Select Education meet necessary and legal safety requirements, but some offer additional features.

What to look for:

- **Over-temperature protection or thermal cut-out**, to prevent overheating
- **Alarms, or automatic shut off** when water levels are too low
- **Cool to touch exteriors** to reduce risk of burns

Lids are recommended for any bath heated to 60°C or higher. Not only does a lid reduce risk of scalding, it can also help to improve energy efficiency.

Additional Considerations

- **Accessories**
Some models offer lids, racks or other inserts which can be bought separately
- **Energy efficiency**
Water baths are often running for long periods of time, so models with lower energy consumption are not only better for the environment; they'll also help reduce utility costs

At SLS Select Education, our **sustainability attributes** are defined by the five stages of a product lifecycle: from raw material, to manufacture, packaging and distribution, use in the lab, and disposal. Find out more at www.science2education.co.uk/attributes