

Water | Water Usage: Drinking and Washing

‘Unglazed pottery jugs with openwork filters in their necks provided cool, clean water.’

Water was boiled for cooking or other uses in large, metal tripod cauldrons or in smaller metal-footed containers. If a stew or soup was being prepared in a cauldron, it was transferred for serving and eating into metal or glazed-ceramic bowls. Drinking-water was consumed from glass goblets with carved, moulded, enamelled or gilded decoration. Additionally, unglazed pottery jugs with openwork filters in the neck provided cool, clean water; the porous material of the jug filtered the water inside and by allowing the air to circulate kept the contents cool.



Name:

Bowl

Dynasty:

About hegira 914 / AD 1510 Ottoman

Details:

Victoria and Albert Museum
London, England, United Kingdom

Justification:

Given the massive size and the shape of this Ottoman ceramic bowl, there has been some debate with regard to its function. While it may have been used for dining, some experts have suggested that it had a more ritual function, and that it was used for washing feet.



Name:

Kilga, Jar-stand

Dynasty:

Hegira 5th–6th / AD 11th–12th century Fatimid

Details:

The British Museum
London, England, United Kingdom

Justification:

This marble jar-stand from Fatimid Egypt would have held a stone or pottery water jar. The water was purified by filtering through the walls of the jar.



Name:

Kettle

Dynasty:

Hegira first half of the 2nd century / AD first half of the 8th century Umayyad

Details:

Madaba Archaeological Museum
Madaba, Jordan

Justification:

A tripod kettle in the form of a stylised camel that was probably the contents of which were probably heated over an open fire.