

Information sheet

Showerheads

A water efficient showerhead can save more than just water - it can also save you money on bills, reduce your energy consumption and resulting greenhouse gas emissions.

Introduction

Showering uses large volumes of water in the home.

- A standard (non water saving) showerhead uses 12-18 litres per minute.
- A water saving showerhead (★★★ rated) uses no more than 9 litres per minute.

A water saving showerhead can save more than 26 litres of water for an average 7 minute shower, which is more than 9,000 litres of water per person in the household per year.

Alternatively, it may be possible to fit a flow regulator (a small brass or plastic device) onto your current showerhead to achieve the same water efficient flow rate of 9 litres per minute. Look for an inline flow controller, which contains the regulator within a metal casing that simply screws on between your existing shower and the wall. These devices are available from all leading hardware and plumbing outlets and can be fitted by the average home handy person.

Costs

- A good quality, multi-function water efficient showerhead can cost from as little as \$60 to over \$250 (these allow you to choose different water pattern settings).
- The cost of a flow regulator varies from \$5 to \$20.

Rebate

- ★★★ showerheads are eligible for the Victorian Government's Watersmart Gardens and Homes Rebate Scheme (\$10), which provides rebates on approved water conservation products. These are available until 30 June 2007.

Useful water saving hints

- Take **shorter showers**. Limit showers to the time it takes to soap up, wash down, and rinse off. Remember that shorter showers also save on hot water costs.
- Use a **shower timer** or **alarm** – set it for 4 minutes, or less.
- Don't turn the shower on flat out.
- Make sure that your hot water thermostat is not set too high – adding cool water to very hot water is wasteful.
- **Use a bucket** to collect water from the shower while you are waiting for it to reach the right temperature. Use this water on your plants in the morning or evening.
- Consider buying a thermostatic mixer which will deliver the water at the temperature that you want, so you aren't wasting water trying to get the right temperature.
- **Insulate** your hot water pipes so the water is still hot when it arrives at the tap. If possible, install your hot water system as close to where the water is required or install an instant hot water service.
- **Look for information** about the water efficiency performance of any product when making a purchase at <http://search.waterrating.com.au/>.

To install a new showerhead



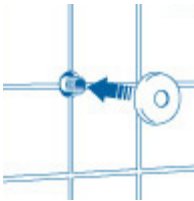
- Remove existing showerhead arm (turn counterclockwise), using a spanner and cloth if needed.
- Do not force it - you may damage the wall.
- Remove flange from supply outlet.



- Clean thread of supply outlet with steel wool or a stiff brush and dry the area thoroughly.



- Wind about 6 rotations of teflon tape around supply outlet.
- Keep the outermost thread clear of tape.



- Place flange over supply outlet.



- Screw new showerhead arm onto supply outlet (turning clockwise).
- Don't reverse the screwing action (it will break the teflon seal).
- Don't use shower arm to tighten, use a spanner and cloth if needed, but don't overtighten.
- Turn water on to check for any leaks around the connections.

To install an inline flow controller

Installing a flow controller is similar to installing a new showerhead, with the following exceptions...

- Do not remove flange from supply outlet.
- Screw flow controller directly onto supply outlet.
- Screw existing showerhead onto flow controller, making sure it seals against the o-ring.

Contact a plumber...

- If you have difficulty with any of the steps when installing a showerhead or flow controller. Don't force the fittings or overtighten the new showerhead as you may damage the wall or plumbing fittings, which can result in costly repair bills.
- If you have gravity fed hot water or an older instantaneous hot water service. Flow control devices (in the showerhead or the inline flow controller) may not work effectively with these systems. You may need to seek assistance from a plumber to ensure your shower quality is not diminished.

Acknowledgement: Thank you to Interbath Australia for the showerhead installation diagrams.

Disclaimer: While savewater!® has attempted to ensure that all information contained in this Information Sheet is accurate, it cannot accept responsibility for any loss you may suffer by relying on it.

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Further information on savewater!®

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