

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 10-12 litres per minute.
- A water saving showerhead (★★★ rated*) uses 6.7 litres per minute.

A water saving showerhead can save over 26 litres of water for an average 7 minute shower, which is about 7,000 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) into your current showerhead to achieve the same water efficient flow rate of 9 litres per minute. These devices are available from all leading hardware and plumbing outlets and can be fitted by the average home handyperson.

Costs

- A multi-function water efficient showerhead can cost from as little as \$50 to over \$250 (these allow you to choose different water pattern settings).
- The cost of a flow control valve varies from \$5 to \$15.

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 shower 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.
- 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. Easy to use and store buckets have been designed for this very purpose, e.g. Ripple Products.
- 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/>.

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