



Water-efficient showerheads

Installing a water-efficient showerhead (if compatible with your hot water system) will give you a great shower and you'll save water, energy and money.

Standard showerheads use about 15 to 25 litres of water per minute. Water-efficient showerheads use nine litres per minute or less.

Installing a water-efficient showerhead could save thousands of litres of water per year. This means:

- reduced water consumption — saving on your water bill; and
- reduced energy consumption for hot water — reducing your energy bill and greenhouse gas emissions.

The more time spent in the shower and the more the tap is turned on, the greater your water consumption. So, whether you have a water-efficient showerhead or not, shorter showers using less water pressure will reduce water use and assist in reducing your water bill.

REGULATIONS

Under the *ACT Water and Sewerage Act 2000* and its regulations, when plumbing work involving the installation of, or work on, a shower is undertaken for a residential property, the showerhead must have a maximum flow capacity of not more than nine litres per minute.

HOT WATER SYSTEM COMPATIBILITY

Water-efficient showerheads can help many households save significant amounts of water, energy and money. However they are not suitable with some hot water systems.

If you have an instantaneous water-heating unit, check with the heater manufacturer—the reduced flow rate of some water-efficient showerheads may be too low for some heater models.

If you have a gravity-fed hot water unit, check with the showerhead manufacturer—not all showerheads will deliver enough water if your water pressure is too low.

TO CHECK THE FLOW RATE OF YOUR SHOWERHEAD

You will need a bucket, a one-litre measuring container (such as a one-litre milk carton or measuring jug) and a watch that shows seconds.

- Fully turn on the cold-water tap of your shower.
- Hold the bucket under the shower for 20 seconds.
- Remove the bucket and turn off the water.
- Measure the amount of water in the bucket by emptying a litre at a time into the measuring container.
- Calculate the flow rate (in litres per minute) by multiplying the number of litres by three. For example, if you collected 8 litres over the 20 seconds, the flow rate is $8 \times 3 = 24$ litres per minute.

Water-efficient showerheads have a flow rate of nine litres per minute or less.

WATER EFFICIENCY LABELLING AND STANDARDS

A new national compulsory Water Efficiency Labelling and Standards (WELS) Scheme has replaced the voluntary 'AAAAA' labelling scheme.

On 1 July 2006, it became mandatory across Australia for showers; clothes washing machines; dishwashers; toilet equipment; urinal equipment; and tap equipment intended for use over kitchen sinks, bathroom basins, laundry tubs or ablution troughs, to carry a WELS Water Rating label when they are offered for sale. Flow controllers may also carry a label, but this is not mandatory.

The WELS Water Rating label has:

- a star rating that gives a quick comparative assessment of the model's water efficiency; and
- an estimate of the water consumption of the product.



WATER RESOURCES STRATEGY

Think water, act water is the ACT Government's strategy for sustainable water use and management. It aims to reduce Canberra's per person water consumption by 12 per cent by 2013 and 25 per cent by 2023.

Think water, act water provides a comprehensive framework for a partnership between the community, industry and government in managing, using and conserving the water resources of the region.

It includes an extensive range of measures, which will ensure water supply security for the ACT, protect and improve ecological values associated with our waterways, and improve the amenity of urban areas.

The strategy outlines a range of initiatives to be put in place to assist Canberrans to increase water efficiency around the home and garden.

WATER EFFICIENCY INCENTIVE PROGRAMS

You may wish to consider the home and garden water efficiency programs offered as part of the ACT Government's water strategy, *Think water, act water*.

Details of all ACT Government water efficiency incentive programs are available from www.thinkwater.act.gov.au

MORE INFORMATION

For more information on water issues, water efficiency rebates and *Think water, act water* initiatives:

Ph: 13 22 81

Email: WaterResources@act.gov.au

Website: www.thinkwater.act.gov.au

For more information on the *ACT Water and Sewerage Act 2000* and its regulations, contact the ACT Planning and Land Authority on (02) 6207 6261

For more information on the WELS Scheme visit www.waterrating.gov.au