



HOW TO INSTALL A WATERWISE SHOWERHEAD

The type of showerhead you have in your home has a large impact on your energy and water consumption – this affects your environmental footprint and bills.

Showers account for around one third of all water use inside the home, so an easy way to save is to keep your showers short and install waterwise showerheads. Conventional showers use around 12 litres of water per minute. Three star showerheads use nine litres per minute. By making the change and reducing your showers to four minutes, you can save approximately 20,000 litres of water a year per person.

Water heating accounts for about 30% of the total energy costs in many Australian homes, generating around 2,000 kilograms of greenhouse gas emissions per annum.

Heating water represents one of the largest energy use (gas or electric) in the home, costing up to \$400 each year. This expense will increase as the price of electricity and gas continues to rise.



HOW DO I MAKE THE CHANGE?

Prior to purchasing a new showerhead, find out what you have now:

1. Place a 10 litre bucket under the showerhead. Turn the shower on full for 30 seconds.
2. Turn off tap.

If the bucket is more than half full the showerhead is a conventional one. If the bucket is less than half full the showerhead is likely to be waterwise.

IS MY HOT WATER SYSTEM SUITABLE TO CHANGE TO A WATERWISE SHOWERHEAD?

If you have an instantaneous water heating unit or a gravity-fed hot water unit, check with the heater manufacturer. The reduced flow rate of some three star showerheads may be too low for some heater models. If your existing water heater is not suitable and is old, consider replacing it with a high efficiency or solar hot water system.

MY HOT WATER SYSTEM IS SUITABLE, WHAT NEXT?

Most hardware stores and bathroom suppliers sell water saving showerheads. Expect to pay between \$40–\$100 for a good quality showerhead.

I'M A RENTER, WHAT ABOUT ME?

As showerheads are a fixture of the property, ask your landlord for permission before changing them.

INSTALLING A THREE STAR WATERWISE SHOWERHEAD

Regulations in Western Australia suggest that any 'plumbing work' should be done by a plumber. So call a plumber, make a cup of tea and watch as they do the following simple job:

Step 1 – With the shower taps turned off (no need to cut off the water supply to the entire house), unscrew the showerhead.

Step 2 – Clean and dry the pipe threads and then wrap three layers of thread tape around them.

Step 3 – Screw the new showerhead on (don't overtighten). Run the shower for a few seconds to check for leaks. Tighten only if necessary.

