

It is a common misconception that showers use less water than baths. To see how many litres per minute your shower is using, place a bucket under the spray.

Turn the tap on full for six seconds then measure the water accumulated. Multiply that by ten for the amount of litres per minute that your shower uses.

Efficient showerheads use on average 9 litres of water per minute.

As with low-flow toilets, when efficient showerheads first came on the market, the technology was not properly developed. However, current models have been redesigned to meet consumer demands for quality and efficiency.

Nevertheless, as with any new installation you will want to ask family and friends for product recommendations before your purchase.

Savings

Your savings will depend on how much you pay for water. Consider that installing an efficient showerhead could save as much as 108 litres of water for every 6 minute shower.

Taking a daily shower instead of a bath can translate into savings of 40,000 litres a year. Multiply that by the number of people in your household and you will start to see the savings.

Less water means less hot water, which translates into savings on your power bill as well.

Installing efficient fixtures can be an easy way to reduce consumption without sacrificing quality.



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Town of Qualicum Beach

Installing a New Showerhead



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Working Towards a Sustainable Future

Installing a Showerhead

The basic information

Before attempting to remove an old showerhead and replace it with an efficient model, check the condition of the shower arm and piping.

Consider professional help if:

Your home has galvanized iron pipe, identifiable by its silver colouring, rough texture and threaded fittings. Galvanized pipe can corrode with age, making it difficult to work with.

The existing showerhead does not remove easily after using spray lubricant.

The showerhead extension pipe moves, twists or leaks.



Step by Step Guide

Step One

Cover the bathtub with a rubber mat or carpeting to protect the enamel.

Step Two

Affix pliers securely to the shower arm, approximately 2.5 cm (1 inch) above the showerhead attachment nut to hold the arm in place. Tip: to prevent scratching, try wrapping a layer of masking tape around the pliers or wrenches.

Step Three

Affix a crescent wrench to the showerhead attachment nut, maintain a firm hold on the channel-lock pliers and turn the crescent wrench slowly in a counter-clockwise direction to remove the showerhead.

Step Four

If the showerhead is stuck, it may be necessary to apply a small amount of spray lubricant to soften the scale and hard water deposits.

Step Five

Turn the shower on briefly after the removal of the fixture to flush out any old residue. Clean the pipe threads of the old sealant with a rag or wire brush.

Step Six

If the pipe ends in a ball-shaped fitting, then it will have to be replaced or a ballfitting adapter will need to be installed.

Step Seven

Test fit the new showerhead (screw on by hand) to ensure the threads match and then remove.

Step Eight

Wrap Teflon tape clockwise 1.5 turns around the threaded tip of the shower arm to help prevent leaks.

Step Nine

Install the new showerhead.

Step Ten

Wrap a cloth around the showerhead attachment nut and tighten slightly with a crescent wrench.

Step Eleven

Turn on the water to check for leaks. If necessary, tighten further or reapply Teflon tape to stop leaking.



Materials Needed

- Channel lock pliers or pipe wrench
- Masking tape
- Bath-tub size piece of rubber mat
- Rag or wire brush
- Crescent wrench
- Teflon tape
- Spray lubricant
- New low flow showerhead

What to Buy

Efficient

By law, all showerheads on the market use 9 litres of water or less per minute, saving you money on your heating and water bill.

Low Flow

If you install a showerhead that uses less than 9 litres of water per minute, you may start to feel the effects of less water. Low flow uses a variety of techniques to use less water and consumer satisfaction depends on personal preference.