



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 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 15 litres of water per minute. Three star showerheads use nine litres per minute. By making the change and reducing your showers by two minutes, you can save approximately 20,000 litres of water a year (or five buckets a day).



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

Take shorter showers with a waterwise showerhead:

EACH DAY	EACH YEAR	
		





JOSH SAYS:

Collect the first run of shower water in a bucket (while waiting for the warm water to come through) and use it on your thirsty plants during dry weather.

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.

During 2010/11, Living Smart will be offered to around 10,000 households in Perth's eastern region as part of the Perth Solar City program. For more information on this Australian Government initiative, please call 1300 993 268 or visit perthsolarcity.com.au. The Living Smart Ambassadors are Tanya Ha (expert in environmental living and the author of *Greeniology* and *Green Stuff for Kids*) and Josh Byrne (sustainability specialist, presenter on ABC TV's *Gardening Australia* program and author of *The Green Gardener*). The information in this brochure is provided in good faith. However the accuracy or appropriateness of the information is not guaranteed. The Living Smart brand has been developed by The Meeting Place Community Centre, the City of Fremantle, Murdoch University and Southern Metropolitan Regional Council to support a suite of programs developing capacity in community sustainability.

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.



TANYA'S TIP:

Invest in a good quality waterwise showerhead - they mix air into the water to give an invigorating full power shower with less water wasted.