

Shower Heads for the future

Bathing, mostly showering, consumes about 20% of the water used inside our homes. The EPA standard for shower head flow rate is set at 2.5 gallons per minute (gpm), and WaterSense standard is 2.0 gpm. Most shower heads more than about 6 – 7 years old have substantially higher flow rates.

The newest shower heads have been engineered to provide a comfortable and effective performance at flow rates of around 1.5 gpm – a 40% reduction from the previous standard. We need these to lower overall water use, during the drought, and on into the future.

Things to think about shower head performance

- Spray distribution at shoulder level
- Spray distribution at ankle level
- Spray feel – needle like, invigorating, a soft rainfall
- Warmth of spray at lowest levels
- How fast can I rinse Shampoo from my hair

Shower heads on the demonstration stand

Position	Product Manufacturer	Product Model #	Rated Flow @ 50 psi Gallons Per Minute	Available Price
1	Niagara Fixed Flow Rate –or– ROHL 5 function	N2915CH	1.5	\$9
		R-SOF134	1.75	\$60
2	Speakman HOTEL	S-2005-HB	2.5	\$34
3	BRIZO	87375	2.0	\$83
4	Newport Brass 6"	N-2143/26	2.0	\$286
5	Kohler Flipside –or– Kobler Forte	Flipside 01	2.5	\$45
		K-10282	2.5	\$42
6	Water Pic 5 Mode EcoFlow –or– HansGrohe	ECO 563 -or–	1.6	\$52
		3-Jet AIR	2.0	\$153
7	American Standard Rain 10" –or– HansGrohe Select10"	1660683	2.5	\$60
		H-26469001	2.5	\$346
8	Dornbracht Multifunction	D-28.508.979-00	2.0	\$520
9	Evolve Automatically shuts off flow after warm up – pull cord to restart	SS-2107CP-SB	1.5	\$40
10	<i>DELTA WATER AMPLIFYING</i>	<i>75152</i>	<i>1.85/2.5</i>	<i>\$40</i>

For more information on how showerheads are evaluated go to:

http://www.epa.gov/WaterSense/pubs/faq_showerheads.html and
http://www.epa.gov/WaterSense/docs/showerheads_finalsuppstat508.pdf.

Some interesting statistics about showering:

Potential Water Savings Calculations Assumptions:

- Average actual flow rate for an existing showerhead is 2.22 gpm (the average flow rate is less than the standard rated flow rate of 2.5 gpm most likely because the products are rated at 80 psi, but installed in homes with less pressure)
- Average shower duration is 8.2 minutes
- The average person takes 0.67 showers per day

Shower display courtesy of Los Trancos County Water District

Some *showerheads* loaned from *Decorative Plumbing Supply* 1200 Industrial Rd, San Carlos 95070-3337