



## Multifamily Facility Management Services

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### LOW FLOW SHOWERHEADS

#### **Description:**

Older showerheads use five to seven gallons of water per minute. Currently, the recommended rate of flow for showerheads is three gallons per minute (gpm). Since most of the hot water used in apartment buildings is used for showers and baths, reducing the shower flow can significantly reduce consumption of gas for water heating.

#### **How to Implement:**

Most manufacturers of plumbing equipment make showerheads with flow rates of approximately three gpm. Differences in price between economy models and better models may reflect differences in the quality or durability of the showerheads. These differences are important to consider because tenants will be dissatisfied with models that perform poorly or are perceived to be of low quality.

Prior to installation, check the existing fittings on the shower necks. Most low flow showerheads are designed to fit on a 1/2" threaded male shower neck. Adapters are required if the fittings do not meet these parameters.

Purchase the equipment from any plumbing supply or hardware store.

Remove the existing showerhead, clean the threads on the neck, and wrap them with pipe thread tape or pipe joint compound. Screw the low flow showerhead on and tighten it with a pipe wrench. The joint tape should be tight enough to prevent leaks, but not so tight that it damages the fittings. Showerhead replacements can be easily completed by on-site maintenance staff.