

Water & energy conservation and Australian Standards

shower therapy
SHOWERS & SHOWER ACCESSORIES

Shower time-Brewer therapy time.

The Australian Standards

1. WELS

Urban water use in Australia is estimated to be approximately 30% higher than the OCED average. Although agriculture still uses over 66% of all available fresh water, urban water use is increasing as cities expand and the money for building new dams and infrastructures becomes limited. Therefore urban water conservation is an absolute priority. Public recognition of water supply problems facing Australia have been further highlighted with droughts and climatic extremes during El-Nino events.

Unfortunately, water supply and infrastructure in Australia's urban environment is controlled by state and local governments and water authorities resulting in a complex system of water management. The National government established a new framework through a Parliamentary Bill in February 2005 called the Water Efficiency Labelling Standard (WELS) scheme, to establish minimum standards for plumbing product water saving performance. This Standard is a mandatory, "must do", manufacturer importer labelling scheme-unlike the old voluntary Manufacturer scheme (AAA rating administered by the W.S.A.A.). The WELS scheme has operated from 30th June 2006 where most tapware and all shower product manufactured or imported or even sold by a retailer, must be approved by the national government with an appropriate WELS label. All retailers should have sold all non WELS product by 31st of December 2006 (AS/NZS6400:2005 New WELS Standard. AS/NZS3662:2005 Shower Performance Standard). Shower hoses are now to be tested to the European Standard DIN EN1113 (See AS/NZS3662:2005 Clause 5.4)

2. WaterMark

WaterMark is a product quality certification mark provided by independent certifying authorities. It confirms that the product complies with the requirements of the Plumbing Code of Australia and the specifications listed in relevant Australian Standards. These relate to the quality of the product, including aspects of health and safety, and warrant that it is fit for purpose.

WaterMark certification is mandatory for products to be legally installed in accordance with state and territory plumbing regulations. Those products required to be certified are listed in the Plumbing Code of Australia and AS5200.000. Showers do not required WaterMark. Tapware and some other products require WaterMark.

The WaterMark logo, the relevant product Standard and the License Number are required to be marked on the product itself.

3. Are WaterMark and WELS the same?

No.

- WaterMark confirms the product complies with the requirements of the Plumbing Code of Australia and is fit for purpose for installation under that code.

- WELS relates only to the water efficiency of the product.

WELS products must carry a WELS label in order to be legally sold, but may not necessarily have the WaterMark.

Those buying a WELS labeled product which does not carry the WaterMark should ask their local water authority if it can be legally installed. It is illegal for a licensed plumber to install non Watermarked product or non WELS labelled product.



Water Conservation Using Brewers Products

Brewers shower therapy showers and tapware are manufactured to conform to the principle of "smart conservation" using our "S.W.E.T" label (Smart, Water Efficient, Technology). These products curb water consumption without compromising on product satisfaction.

Possible Savings - money and environmental care

- Using WELS water efficient showers will save an estimated 30% to 40% of showering water and 16% of hot water. (A old non WELS regular shower head uses 120 litres per 8 minute shower. A WELS water saving shower head uses approx 72 litres of water for the same period).
- Using WELS water efficient tapware will save an estimated 25% of water and 13% of hot water. (old non WELS taps discharge 1.5 to 1.8 litres per minute. WELS water saving tapware use 4.5 to 9 litres per minute).
- Using WELS water efficient products by reducing energy consumption therefore significantly reduces green house gas emissions which many scientists believe contribute to climate change.

See: -Wilkenfield Report June 2002 R.I.S.

www.waterrating.gov.au www.deh.gov.au/water/urban/scheme.html

Urban Water Usage Facts

The average household uses 700 litres of water each day

INDOOR USAGE

Showers 29%

Toilet 26%

Laundry 26%

Taps 18%

Dishwasher 1%

TOTAL USAGE

Outdoor 32%
Indoor 68%

20% of all electricity consumed in a typical household is in the shower.