

## Shower and Decide

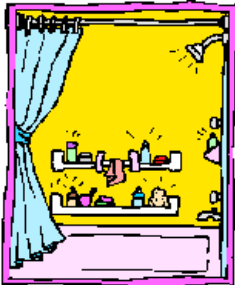
How much water is going down your shower drain?

Much of the water we use in our homes is used in our bathrooms. Did you know that taking a shower without a water-saver showerhead uses about seven gallons of water per minute?

The next time you begin a shower, set a stopwatch or timer to see how long you are in the shower. Then check to see how many gallons of water you used by using one of the following formulas:



- If your family doesn't have a water-saver showerhead, multiply your shower minutes by 7. For example, if you took a 10-minute shower,  $10 \times 7 = 70$  gallons of water.
- If your family has a water-saver showerhead, multiply your shower minutes by 2.5. For example, if you took a 10-minute shower,  $10 \times 2.5 = 25$  gallons of water.
- If you have a water-saver shower head and you turned only the smallest amount of water on to wash, multiply each minute by 2. For example, if you took a 10-minute shower,  $10 \times 2 = 20$  gallons of water.



Determine the amount of water you save if you shut the water OFF while you are shampooing your hair or sudsing your body. Count the minutes the water is flowing and multiply to measure the gallons of water you are using. Then subtract the number of gallons from the amount of water that you usually use!

How much water are you saving?

Adapted from Water Drops, a water resource newsletter, Southwest Florida Water Management District by Teresa Smith, former Youth and Family Specialist, Texas AgriLife Extension Service, Texas A&M System, 2004.