

NEWS

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For Immediate Release
Contact:
Lisa Scholin
503-977-0483
lisa@blueflypr.com

Showering in savings: Energy Trust of Oregon offers special pricing for energy-efficient showerheads statewide

Today's models save up to \$44 a year without compromising performance

PORTLAND, Ore — August 13, 2012 — Saving energy around the house can start with something as simple as the daily shower. After home heating and cooling, water heating ranks as the second highest residential energy expenditure, with showers topping the list as users of 2,300 gallons of water a year in the average household. Fortunately, there is a way to keep dollars from going down the drain by making a change to an energy-efficient showerhead.

To help utility customers make the switch, Energy Trust of Oregon is working with retailers around the state to offer reduced prices on energy-saving WaterSense[®] labeled showerheads in a variety of styles and finishes.

Showerheads with the WaterSense label are certified to be 20 percent more water efficient. Changing just one showerhead to a WaterSense model can save up to \$44 a year in energy and water costs. An average household with one shower can save more than \$200 in just five years.

“During the summer, we often think about saving water in the yard, but saving hot water inside the home also has great benefits, because it saves energy, too,” said Matt Braman, residential program manager, Energy Trust. “Tools like water-saving showerheads make savings automatic and work as well or better than conventional models — so the only difference seen is on the energy bill.”

Discounted WaterSense labeled showerheads are available throughout Oregon at Bi-Mart, Ferguson Enterprises, Fred Meyer, George Morlan Plumbing Supply, Goodwill, Grover Electric and Plumbing Supply, Habitat for Humanity ReStore, Home Depot, Jerry's Home Improvement, Lowe's, PARR Lumber, The ReBuilding Center, St. Vincent de Paul and Walmart. The discount is \$7 per WaterSense labeled showerhead and the average price ranges from \$14 to \$16. The discount is automatically taken at the register — no coupon is required.

Energy Trust recommends replacing any showerhead that uses more than 2 gallons per minute of water. Showerheads from before 1992 can use more than twice that amount, up to 5.5 gallons per minute, while WaterSense labeled showerheads can use as little as 1.5 gallons.

A simple test can also help determine if a showerhead should be replaced:

- Place a bucket, marked in gallon increments, under the showerhead.
- Turn the shower on at normal water pressure.
- Time how many seconds it takes to fill the bucket to the 1-gallon mark.

- If it takes less than 30 seconds to reach the 1-gallon mark, a water-saving showerhead would be beneficial.

More water- and energy-saving ideas:

1. Fix leaks

To quickly reduce hot water use, try repairing leaks in faucets, showerheads and pipes. A leak of one drip per second can cost \$1 per month.

2. Install faucet aerators

Faucet aerators that screw on to the tip of the faucet are inexpensive to replace and a cost-effective way to save hot water. Look for aerators that have flow rates of no more than 1 gallon per minute.

3. Use the dishwasher

Washing dishes by hand several times a day can be more expensive than operating an energy-efficient dishwasher. When using the dishwasher, be sure to opt for water-saver washing and energy-saver drying options to save even more.

4. Wash clothes in cold water

Clothes washers don't require a minimum temperature for optimum cleaning. To help lower energy costs, use cold water for most laundry and run full loads.

5. Purchase an ENERGY STAR® clothes washer and dishwasher

ENERGY STAR dishwashers and clothes washers are designed to use less energy and water than conventional machines while delivering superior cleaning performance. Energy Trust currently offers cash incentives for select clothes washer models.

6. Lower water heater temperature

Set the water heater to a maximum of 120 degrees (or to 140 degrees if your dishwasher does not pre-heat water) to save on water heating costs overall.

To learn more about Energy Trust discounted WaterSense showerheads visit www.energytrust.org/showerheads or call 1-866-368-7878.

Energy Trust of Oregon is an independent nonprofit organization dedicated to helping utility customers benefit from saving energy and tapping renewable resources. Our services, cash incentives and energy solutions have helped participating customers of Portland General Electric, Pacific Power, NW Natural and Cascade Natural Gas save more than \$1 billion on energy bills. Our work helps keep energy costs as low as possible, creates jobs and builds a sustainable energy future. Learn more at www.energytrust.org or call 1-866-368-7878.

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