

"Shower Buyer's Guide!"



Relax. Refresh. Revitalize.

Most of us can't go without it even for a single day! As social creatures, we need to maintain our hygiene and keep ourselves presentable. We need a good shower in the morning to set the tone of our day right. We also need a means to unwind and pamper ourselves after a long day. A good shower provides all that, making it indispensable to your home.

But a good shower can be made into so much more. Often, this is made possible by the shower head itself.

There are many variants of shower heads to choose from, but it mostly boils down to shower heads being "fixed" or having some form of hand-held function. Moreover, there are some showers that feature multiple sprays, but installing them require adjustments to your plumbing. If there are no plans for bathroom renovation or remodeling, it's best to go for a shower head which can be readily installed.



Fixed or **overhead** showers are the conventional type of shower head. They can be wall-mounted or ceiling-mounted, offering the convenience of having the shower directly over your head at all times. Their stationary nature also helps keep much of the water from drenching the surrounding bathroom floor. However, they lack the maneuverability that a hand-held shower offers. They also tend not to include additional functions, such as massage settings.

Hand-held shower heads connect to your water supply via a hose, and can be grabbed to manually direct the spray when showering. When "holstered", they function in the same way as a fixed shower head. Hand-held showers let you wash hard-to-reach areas without trouble, making them good for bathing kids and pets. The elderly and those with disabilities can enjoy comfortable showering in any position (e.g. while seated on a shower bench).

Water Flow Rate

As per federal water regulation laws, shower heads are capped at a maximum flow rate of 2.5 GPM. However, some shower heads are restricted to as low as 1.3 GPM. These "low-flow" shower heads are sometimes equipped with an aerating spray to compensate for the low flow rate. Aerating shower heads inject oxygen into the water, giving more force to the spray and making it seem "fuller". This makes the water cooler as well, and may require additional levels of heating for a nice hot shower.



Spray Settings

One reason why we love showering is that it leaves us feeling refreshed. Some shower heads can really take it to the next level with relaxing spray settings. Often, these shower heads include a wide rain-style spray setting, as well as pulsating massage for weary nights. Couple the latter with a hand-held function, and you could really get to work on those tired muscles.

Grooming

We do some of our grooming in the shower area. While a standard fixed shower head can be enough to help us rinse, it helps when you can grab the shower by hand. It is especially handy when doing something like shaving legs. One hand with the shower, the other with the razor.

Shower Filter

Not only is a shower filter good at keeping your bath water safe from harmful chemicals, they can also make the water feel better on the skin. Chlorine lessens the effectivity of soaps, so you'll notice soaps and shampoos lathering up better when you use a filter. The water will also have more rinsing power, making the most of your new shower head.

When deciding on a shower filter, it helps to know what filter media is used, and in what temperatures they work at. For instance, KDF is particularly effective in high temperatures, while calcium sulfite and Active Carbon perform well in either hot or cold temps. Many shower filters blend filter media together for more effectiveness.



Other Benefits

It isn't necessarily true that the more features a shower head offers, the better. For instance, shower combos with multiple sprays and mist settings may seem very enticing, but they do use up more water as compared to a single shower head. Moreover, your plumbing needs to be readjusted to accommodate the new shower system. If your budget is limited, it's best to go for a shower head that's more affordable, but also more useful in other ways.

A good example would be how the hand-held shower can help in keeping the shower area clean. It's particularly handy when scrubbing the soap scum off the walls, as you can take the water closer to those areas. It helps if the hand shower comes with a long and flexible hose, to avoid tangles.



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