

construction, up to 26,000 acre-feet less residential water would be required in 2000 (than if current practices are continued).

Shower Heads and Faucets

In general, faucet and shower heads deliver more water than is actually needed. The flow could be controlled by use of a low-flow fixture, an attachment to the existing fixture, or a flow restrictor to the water line.

The question, "What are minimum acceptable flows?" has never really been answered, but depends in part on the appearance of the flow from the faucet or shower head.

Tests conducted by the WSSC indicate the use of low-flow shower heads would result in a water savings of 9 to 12 percent.⁸ In Oklahoma, with a complete theoretical change over to 3.0 gallons per minute shower heads and 1.5 gallons per minute faucets, up to 15,300 acre-feet of water could be saved in 2000.

Automatic Clothes Washers and Dishwashers

Water for laundering is usually the third leading user of water in the home. For the same load, some clothes washers use 70 percent less water than others; some dishwashers use 50 percent less water than others. In terms of unit water savings, this amounts to reductions of up to 37 gallons for clothes washers and up to 8 gallons for dishwashers.

Retrofitting of older washing machines and dishwashers is not considered practical. However, as older appliances are phased out, they should be replaced with models designed to use less water. Water savings with existing appliances can best be effected by educating users