Measuring Water Flow Rates

Materials:
- One gallon container
- Stopwatch or watch with second hand
- School shower or large utility sink
- Calculator

Step 1: Turn on both the hot and cold water. Adjust the temperature of the water and the flow to the temperature at which you would normally shower or wash your hands.

Step 2: Place the gallon container in the stream of water and note the time. Recorded how long it takes for the container to fill, in seconds. Turn off the water and fill in the blanks below.

1 gallon water in _______ seconds

Step 3: Calculate gallons per minute (GPM)

_________ seconds ÷ 60 sec/min = __________ GPM

Step 4: Turn on only the hot water. Empty the gallon container and place the empty container in the hot water stream (Use caution!). Record how long it takes the container to fill. Turn off the water and fill in the blanks below.

1 gallon hot water in _______ seconds

Step 5: Calculate gallons per minute (GPM)

_________ seconds ÷ 60 sec/min = __________ GPM

What Can We Do Now?

· Were your flow rates greater than 2.5 GPM? If so, consider low-flow showerheads. There are low-flow showerheads available that provide a hot shower and use 2.5 GMP or less. Energy and water can be saved by converting to these low-flow options.

· Consider installing automatic sink sensors. These easily installed devises conserve water from a sink and will help reduce costs over time.