

Name: \_\_\_\_\_



## 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. Record 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 devices conserve water from a sink and will help reduce costs over time.