

SAFELY INSTALL WATER SAVING PRODUCTS

Before installing a shower or tap flow restrictor it's important to confirm that you have a mains pressure hot water system. Do not use flow restrictors if you have a low or unequal pressure hot water cylinder. Back flow of restricted water may damage your cylinder, and hot water flow rate may become insufficient.

Most hot water cylinders will have a label stating whether it provides low or mains pressure (see picture). If you can't see a label, below are some common features of each system that you can look for.



Low pressure	Mains pressure
The shower temperature and/or pressure changes when someone uses hot water elsewhere in the house.	No change in shower temperature or pressure when someone uses hot water elsewhere in the house.
The hot tap has less water pressure than the cold tap.	The hot and the cold taps have the same water pressure.
You can completely stop the flow from the hot water tap with your thumb.	You cannot stop the flow from the hot water tap with your thumb.
A metal overflow pipe sticks up from your roof, and sometimes water comes out of it.	Instantaneous hot water with no storage, or gas heated water system.

DIY INSTALL: TAP AERATORS

If you have a mains pressure hot water system (see overleaf) you can safely install flow restricting aerators onto your kitchen and bathroom mixer taps. These replace your tap's existing aerators and save water by reducing the flow.

You may like to measure your tap's flow rate before and after this install to check how much water you save. Refer to our video on our website, [How much water does you shower or tap use?](#), to find out how.

How to install a tap aerator:

1. Make sure you have a mains pressure hot water system. These flow restricting aerators should not be installed on taps with low pressure hot water systems.
2. Remove the existing fitting from the end of the spout (you may need an adjustable spanner to do this). Remove any existing rubber washers.
3. Ensure that the screw-thread (either inside or outside the spout end) is clean and dry.
4. Screw on the aerator, removing one of the rubber washers if required.
5. Turn the tap on full flow. If you have a leak at the join, try some plumbers tape around the thread.



Fixed Tap Aerator



Swivel Tap Aerator

Visit ecomatters.org.nz/water for more information.