

# One Minute Shower Website Overview for Teachers

The One Minute Shower Website (<http://www.oneminuteshower.com.au>) was created to encourage water conservation when showering. This website gives adults and children alike the opportunity to fill in a survey submitting their current showering habits. They are then asked to commit to cutting down that time, therefore saving water. If they have a high flow showerhead installed, they are also given the opportunity to commit to changing it over to a low flow. Doing the latter alone guarantees about 50% water savings even if the showering times remain the same.

**With teacher and parent supervision, this website is an excellent educational tool for children and their parents for the following reasons: -**

- 1) It makes them think about how much time they spend in the shower.
- 2) They are given an exercise to discover whether they have a high flow or low flow showerhead – maths is involved.
- 3) The calculation of their water savings is a mathematical exercise in itself.
- 4) It's fun for them to participate, making water conservation more like a game that is worth playing.
- 5) Taught correctly, a child's enthusiasm could spill over onto their parents causing these parents to think about their own showering habits in support of their child's school project. In particular this will be highlighted if they themselves are unsure whether they have a high flow or low flow showerhead installed at home. As a family they can do the test together.

**Before getting your class to participate in the Shower Survey, the following needs to be done: -**

- 1) Firstly your school will need to apply for a special e-mail address. This address will identify the school's participation in this water conservation effort and it also gives instant activation privileges. It is very important that this address is treated as confidential (teacher's eyes only) and is **NOT** under any circumstances given to the students. To apply for a special e-mail address for your school, simply send an e-mail to [info@oneminuteshower.com.au](mailto:info@oneminuteshower.com.au).
- 2) Over the space of one week, get parents to time their children when they have a shower. This should be done at least three times so an average time can be estimated. It is important that children know they are to perform their normal showering routine without cutbacks at this point. The amount of showers per day also needs to be noted.
- 3) With parental assistance, children need to test their showerhead at home to ascertain whether they have a high flow or low flow showerhead installed (see "Showerhead Test").
- 4) Parents need to fill out the "To be completed by parents" form and sign it at the bottom.
- 5) Encourage the children to ask their parents to buy a waterproof shower timer. It could perhaps be considered that the school approaches a supplier and offers to order them for the parents as buying in bulk would be cheaper if you can get enough interest.

**When the children have completed their homework, simply follow these steps: -**

- 1) Go to <http://www.oneminuteshower.com.au>.
- 2) Help them to complete the shower survey based on the answers they received from their homework.
- 3) Click the "**Calculate**" button.
- 4) Participants will then see how much water they currently use while showering, how much water they will now be using then finally, and most importantly, they will see their personal water saving tally in red. (This is a good opportunity for a **maths lesson** so children can understand how they arrived at these figures.)
- 5) When it comes to commit to the savings, this is where the teacher steps in. When called upon each student comes up to the teacher to fill out the survey once again until it comes time to commit their savings. The teacher then asks the student if they are happy with that commitment. When the student says "yes", they are thanked and asked to return to their desk.
- 6) The teacher then clicks **Commit to Savings**. A registration page will appear. The teacher then fills out the first name, surname and postcode of the student provided by the information sheet their parents have filled out. The teacher also types in the e-mail address provided just for the school. Once all information is completed, the teacher clicks "Signup". Providing the e-mail address that was assigned to the school is typed correctly Australia's Water Saving Tally (top right) will go up instantly on the teacher's computer.
- 7) The students with access to a computer are then asked to look at the Australia's Water Saving Tally. They are then asked to refresh their browsers so they can see the amount go up. This is a very important step to create a sense of making a difference and being part of something special. Encouraging the students to get excited and clap and possibly cheer each time the total goes up is also a good idea.

**That's it! Thank you for your commitment to teaching children about water conservation.**