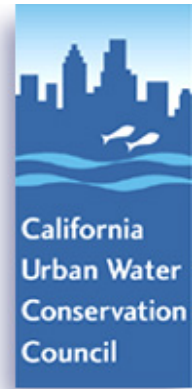


NEWS RELEASE



City of Seattle
Gregory J. Nickels, Mayor



California Urban Water Conservation Council
Mary Ann Dickinson, Executive Director
916-552-5885

For immediate release

Dec. 22, 2005

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Seattle Seeks Sanctions Against Outlaw Showerhead Manufacturers

Tests Show Some Web-marketed Showerheads Wasting Water at Five Times Legal Flow Rate

SEATTLE—Joining forces with the California Urban Water Conservation Council (CUWCC), Seattle is seeking sanctions against the manufacturers of water-guzzling showerheads that exceed state and federal conservation requirements.

Showers are typically the third largest use of water inside homes. Installing and using illegal, high-flow showerheads—advertised on several bath fixture supply Web sites—can wipe out the water and energy conserving efforts of 29 households using water efficient showerheads.

“It’s time someone blew the whistle on these water and energy wasters,” said Mayor Greg Nickels. “Blatant violations of environmental protection laws are unacceptable and negate the efforts of customers who conserve water.”

Tipped off to possible violations of state and federal law, Seattle had five showerheads tested for possible flow rate violations. Federal law requires manufacturers to make water efficient showerheads—not to exceed 2.5 gallons of water per minute—and California and Washington state laws prohibit installation of inefficient showerheads.

The just-released results of the testing, conducted by an independent lab, show all five showerheads failed by significant margins—from 7.62 to 13 gallons of water per minute.

“We were horrified to find showerheads for sale in California that flowed three to five times above the legal limit” said Mary Ann Dickinson, Executive Director for the CUWCC.

“Widespread use of such showerheads erodes water conservation gains in California made

—MORE—

during the last 15 years. This additional water and energy use will have long term environmental impacts, along with higher costs to ratepayers.”

Al Dietemann, water conservation lead for Seattle Public Utilities, said he became suspicious that some Web-advertised body spa and waterfall type showerheads were not conforming to code requirements after receiving complaints from local plumbers and developers. That led Dietemann to an Internet search that turned up advertisements for showerheads with flow rates more than five times the legal limit.

“Seattle and CUWCC are notifying the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) of the results of this testing. The DOE is responsible for enforcing the federal laws prohibiting the manufacture of water-wasting showerheads,” Dietemann said. “We’re asking that the DOE require manufacturers to cease and desist their production of showerheads that exceed federal standards.”

Dietemann said the vast majority of citizens support responsible conservation of natural resources—particularly water. “Most people are appalled when they learn about these water-guzzling showerheads,” Dietemann said.

The vast majority of showerhead manufacturers are conforming to the federal law, but it appears at least a few are not. Last month a certified independent testing lab, BR Laboratories of Huntington Beach, Calif., tested five different showerheads for conformance with established test procedure (American National Standard (ASME A112.18-2000).

“They exceeded the maximum water flow rate requirements allowed by the Federal and California Appliance Efficiency Regulations,” said to Bodh Subherwal, professional engineer with BR Labs.

Visit the mayor’s web site at <http://www.seattle.gov/mayor>. Get the mayor’s inside view on initiatives to promote transportation, public safety, economic opportunity and healthy communities by signing up for The Nickels Newsletter at www.seattle.gov/mayor/newsletter_signup.htm

In addition to providing more than 1.3 million customers in the Seattle metropolitan area with a reliable water supply, SPU provides essential sewer, drainage, solid waste and engineering services that safeguard public health, maintain the City’s infrastructure and protect, conserve and enhance the region's environmental resources.

For more information on the California Urban Water Conservation Council, visit www.cuwcc.org

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REPORT NUMBER: 0511-18
TOTAL PAGES: 14
(including Title Page, Table of contents
and Appendix pages).

TEST REPORT ON FLOW CAPACITY OF VARIOUS SHOWER HEADS

Models:

1. WATERMARK model SH-FAL70
2. WATERMARK model SS-RH080
3. WATERMARK model SS-RH500
4. WATERMARK model SS-RH600
5. NAUTILUS II SHOWERBUDDY

NOVEMBER 15, 2005

TEST PROCEDURE : SECTION 5.5 FLOW CAPACITY TEST of AMERICAN NATIONAL STANDARD ASME A112.18-2000, PLUMBING FIXTURE FITTINGS

TEST SAMPLE : Samples were purchased online.

CONCLUSION : **Each of the showerhead Models SH-FAL70, SS-RH080, SS-RH500, SS-RH600, and NAUTILUS II Showerbuddy failed and exceeded maximum water flow rate requirement of 2.5 gpm@80psig allowed by the Federal and California Appliance Efficiency Regulations.**

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PREPARED BY : BR LABORATORIES, INC.
Post Office Box 1249
Huntington Beach, CA 92647

I. OBJECTIVE

To test the submitted WATERMARK and NAUTILUS shower heads for compliance to section 5.5 (Flow Capacity) of American National Standard ASME A112.18.1-2000, Plumbing Fixture Fittings.

II. FITTINGS TESTED

	<u>MANUFACTURER</u>	<u>MODELS</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>
1.	WATERMARK	SH-FAL70	Polished chrome, Shower Head
2.	WATERMARK	SS-RH080	Polished chrome, Shower Head
3.	WATERMARK	SS-RH500	Polished chrome, Shower Head
4.	WATERMARK	SS-RH600	Polished chrome, Shower Head
5.	NAUTILUS II POLISHED CHROME SHOWERBUDDY		
6.	*HANS GROHE	28403001	Downpour Air Rainmaker Showerhead, 24"

*Not tested, Hansgrohe showerhead on order and will become available in February or March, 2006.

- Each showerhead was purchased online. Only one sample of each model was acquired and tested.



III. REQUIREMENTS, TESTS, AND RESULTS**5.5 FLOW CAPACITY TEST**

The flow test station was set up in accordance with figure 3 for devices with atmospheric discharge and one or two supplies.

Flow capacity tests were conducted with water at temperature 100 ± 5 °F for 20 and 80 psig pressures. The test results are provided in the table below.

Pressure, PSIG	20	80	Model
Water Flow Rate (gpm)	3.58	7.62	SH-FAL70
Water Flow Rate (gpm)	7.22	13.00	SS-RH080
Water Flow Rate (gpm)	4.13	8.19	SS-RH500
Water Flow Rate (gpm)	4.39	9.10	SS-RH600
Water Flow Rate (gpm)	6.97	12.70	NAUTILUS II

As required in Federal and California Appliance Efficiency Regulations, the maximum allowable flow rate for showerheads is 2.5 gpm when tested for water flow rate at 80 psig pressure. All showerhead models exceeded the maximum allowable flow capacity.

FAILED**MARKINGS**

- The carton/package for WATERMARK Models SH-FAL70, SS-RH500, SS-RH600 carried a marking of 2.0 gpm "max".
- The carton/package for NAUTILUS II did not carry any markings.

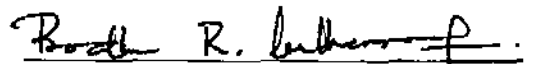


IV. CONCLUSION

- Each of the showerhead Models SH-FAL70, SS-RH080, SS-RH500, SS-RH600, and NAUTILUS II Showerbuddy failed and exceeded maximum water flow rate requirement of 2.5 gpm@80psig allowed by the Federal and California Appliance Efficiency Regulations.

Respectfully Submitted,


Test Engineer


Bodh R. Subherwal, P.E.
Technical Manager





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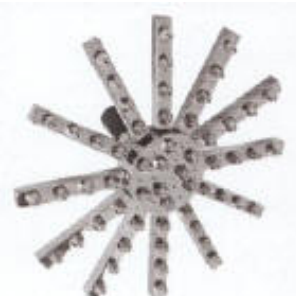


#WTM-
RH500

Snowflake Round Shower head 55
jets, 9" diameter
8 GPM @ 45 PSI



#WTM-FAL70 Waterfall Shower head
12-3/4" wide, 11-1/2" c-c, 2-1/2"
projection, 14 GPM @ 45 PSI
Two 1/2" Male Nipple connections



#WTM-RH600 Snowflake Square
Shower head 55 jets, 9" diameter
8 GPM @ 45 PSI



#WTM-POR50 Porcelain Shower head



#WTM-FAL90 Small Waterfall Shower head, 7-1/4" long, 6" wide, 3/4" NPT Male connections



#WTM-POR70 Porcelain/Brass Shower head



#WTM-SH-RH070 6" Rain Shower head



#WTM-SH-RH075 8" Rain Shower head, 6.6 GPM @45 PSI



#WTM-SH-RH080 12" Pan Rain Shower head, 10 GPM @ 45 PSI



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