

Splish, Splash, Should I Take a Bath?



A shower without a water-saving shower head may use more than 5 gallons of water per minute.

Equipment/Materials

ruler paper pencil or pen

Procedure

1. Fill the bathtub as you would if you were going to take a bath. Use a ruler to measure the depth of the water in four places the length of the tub, and record those measurements. Remember to hold the ruler vertically when taking the measurements. Record your measurements here.

Depth _____, _____, _____, _____ inches

2. Add all of the measurements together and divide by the number of measurements you took. This gives you an average depth for the water in the tub. **Hint: It is easier if all the measurements are converted to decimals before doing the math.** Record the average depth here.

Average depth _____ inches

3. Since every inch of water in a bathtub represents approximately 4½ gallons of water, multiply the average depth of water by 4.5 to get an estimate of the amount of water you use to take a bath. Record that below.

I use _____ gallons of water when I take a bath.

4. Drain the water from the tub.

5. Close the drain and take a shower.

6. Measure the depth of the water in the tub as you did before and calculate the amount of water used in your shower. Record that value below.

Depth _____ inches

Average depth _____ inches Water used for shower _____ gallons

7. Was showering or bathing the more efficient way to wash? _____

8. How could you reduce the amount of water required for either a bath or a shower? List some things you think might help.

