

Bill to Redefine “Showerhead” Wouldn’t Help Consumers

January 2026

H.R. 4593 (Fry) would change the legal definition of “showerhead.” It would not help consumers experiencing poor showerhead performance, which is almost always caused by outdated fixtures, low home water pressure, or mineral buildup. But it could open the door for the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) to welcome products that waste water and cost more to use.

The national efficiency standard for showerheads saves consumers money on their water and energy bills and helps limit water shortages in many regions. Congress established today’s standard, which limits showerheads to a maximum water flow of 2.5 gallons of water per minute, in a bipartisan law in 1992.

A bill in the House would change the law’s definition of a showerhead and direct DOE to incorporate the new definition through rulemaking. There is no consumer need for this change.

Today’s efficient showerheads can provide excellent showers

Independent testing has repeatedly shown that today’s efficient showerheads perform very well. The top performers in rankings by both [Consumer Reports](#) and [Wirecutter](#) actually use less water than allowed under the federal standard. Wirecutter says its top pick, which has a flow rate of 1.75 gallons per minute, “soaks you like a summer downpour.”

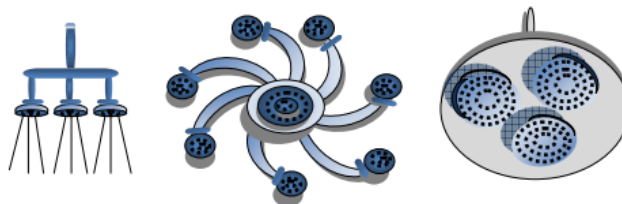
Manufacturers solved early performance issues decades ago, and U.S. showerhead manufacturers [supported the rule that repealed](#) the first Trump administration’s attempt to weaken the standard.

Consumer Reports’ testing found that “water flow doesn’t really predict performance” and found models that “use even less water than what the law allows while still providing a powerful shower that leaves you feeling recharged.”

Changing the definition of “showerhead” won’t address problems

Outdated showerheads can be replaced by today’s high-performing models. Mineral buildup can be cleaned. But H.R. 4593 would not help.

H.R. 4593’s sponsor says it would allow manufacturers to make products with multiple nozzles (such as those shown below) that, combined, could use more than 2.5 gallons per minute. There are multi-nozzle showerheads on the market today (e.g., this [Delta two-in-one showerhead](#)) that meet the standard. However, the potential multi-nozzle products that could be allowed under the bill’s definition may not function well in many U.S. homes, because the pipes and shower valves are generally not designed for them.



Examples of three-nozzle “trident” and eight-nozzle “octopus” showerheads ([DOE](#))

Bill is another step in President Trump's multiyear push to redefine showerheads

DOE has never updated the standard for showerheads. In response to some manufacturers introducing multi-nozzle models designed to circumvent the law, DOE issued a regulatory definition in 2013 that made clear that a showerhead, regardless of how many individual nozzles it had, must meet the statutory standard.

However, during the first Trump administration, DOE changed the definition of "showerhead" to allow products with multiple 2.5 gallon-per-minute nozzles. Manufacturers opposed this definition change. Early in the Biden administration, DOE reinstated the 2013 definition, closing the multi-nozzle loophole.

In April 2025, President Trump signed an executive order directing DOE to rescind the Biden-era rule. DOE published a [final rule](#) that month rescinding it and reverting to the statutory definition.

For more information, please contact Michael Johnson at mjohnson@standardsasap.org

