

# How to choose the correct Shower for you

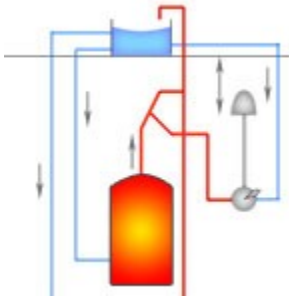
## Your Installation System in your home

When you are deciding what style of shower you require, you need to determine the type of water heating system you have installed in your home. This will affect your choice of shower and the shower's performance. To identify the type of system you have installed there is a guide outlined below.

If you are unsure of which system you have please consult a qualified installer, so that you can ensure you choose the best shower for your system.

## Gravity Fed Hot Water Systems

This is the type of central heating system that most homes in the UK have. The gravity system **consists of a cold water tank**, which is usually found in the loft space, **and directly below this, a hot water tank** (usually in the airing cupboard).

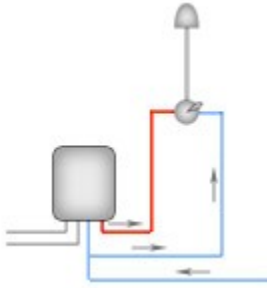


If you have gas central heating you will have a **gas boiler to heat the water**, which is then stored in the hot water tank, and from this tank the hot water flows to the taps/shower etc. As the water in the hot water tank is used up, it is replaced with cold from the tank above, which in turn is 'topped up' from the mains water supply.

**In an emersion system the hot water tank contains an element** which heats the water to the required temperature (usually 60°C).

If the water pressure in the system is not sufficient enough to provide a satisfactory shower then a **water pump can be added** quite easily to this system. If you are thinking of adding a pump to your gravity system then you must **bear in mind the size of your hot water tank**. A 50 gallon tank is the standard for UK domestic requirements, however if you are using a pump, the water will be used at a greater rate, thus you must ensure that the tank is of a sufficient size to allow 2 or 3 consecutive baths or showers.

## High Pressure Systems

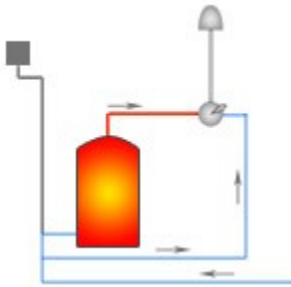


These are often found in flats or small houses as **they do not require a hot water tank or a cold water storage tank**. This is because the boiler heats the water, as it is required, direct from the mains water supply.

A **combination boiler is easy to spot** if you are unsure which central heating system you have, as the boiler will fire up each time you turn on the hot tap.

A good modern combination boiler, combined with average mains water pressure, should provide hot water at approximately 1.5 bar, which is adequate for most purposes. As with the Megaflo system, this boiler runs direct from the mains water supply, thus making it **unsuitable for the addition of a water pump**.

## Unvented Systems



In this system **the hot water tank is pressurised and takes in cold water directly from the mains supply**, thus there is no need for a cold water storage tank in the loft. It's easy to spot if you have an unvented system, as there will be a pressure expansion vessel on top of the hot water tank, and it will say 'pressurised system' on the tank itself.

Due to the pressurised nature of this system **unvented hot water storage vessels are unsuitable for the addition of a pump**, however as the water supplied directly from the mains is usually at approximately 2 bar of pressure, this is more than adequate for most purposes.

## **Different Types of Showers**

### **Thermostatic Mixer Valves**

Hot & Cold water are combined in a single mixer unit, are ideal for homes with a plentiful supply of hot water, and are able to provide a higher flow rate than electric showers.

Thermostatically controlled allows the temperature to be set and held. Also has safety feature which closes the valve down if cold water supply fails

Compatible systems : Gravity fed, instantaneous gas water heater or combi boiler, and unvented.

Types of Mixer Valves on the site :

### **Twin Valves**

Hot & Cold inlets with one outlet leading to a fixed head or rail kit. One flow control for the temperature and one for the flow. Available in both concealed and exposed models



Concealed



Exposed

### **Triple Valves**

Hot & Cold inlets with two outlets allowing the use of two options (e.g Shower Head & Body Jets). One flow control for the temperature and two separate flow controls for each option. You can use both options at the same time, however flow will be reduced when using it in this way.



### **Twin Valve with Divertor**

Hot & Cold inlet with a diverter allowing up to three outlet connections. These connections can be blanked off allowing the use of either 1, 2 or 3 outlets. One temperature control and one control to turn each option on or off. There is no flow control on these valves as it only allows it to be on or off. Only one option can be used at any time.



### **Sequential Valve**

Hot & Cold inlet. One control which increases the flow and temperature at the same time in sequence. One outlet option.



### **Shower Panel**

Hot & Cold flexible inlets. The valve is contained within the panel unit. Only need to connect the inlets. Usually have a fixed head, handheld shower and body jets. You can only use one option at any time.

