

Contact: Dave Loveday
Water Quality Association
International Headquarters & Laboratory
4151 Naperville Road, Lisle, Illinois 60532-3696 USA
E-mail: dloveday@wqa.org
Telephone: 630 505 0160 Fax: 630 505 9637



Press release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE — JUNE 26, 2009

Study to measure long-term hard water damage

Early testing already shows harm to 'instant-hot' water heaters

Lisle, Illinois —Expanding on a major study already underway, the Water Quality Research Foundation has retained an independent testing firm to measure how hard water might damage many common household fixtures and appliances.

In February, WQRF hired the Battelle Memorial Institute, a non-profit international science and technology enterprise, to examine the amount of energy savings that water softeners offer. With its new undertaking, the firm will now test to see what effect hard water has on items such as low flow faucets, clothes washers, and dishwashers.

Battelle announced preliminary results on instantaneous water heaters this week. It was found that, after the equivalent of only one year and three months of average household use, such devices can be six percent less efficient when hard water is used instead of soft water. This result follows a public report earlier this month showing that showerheads can clog quickly when run with hard water.

Tests are being conducted using independently developed and impartial methods. The final research report is scheduled for September 2009.

The Water Quality Association is a not-for-profit international trade association representing the residential, commercial, and industrial water treatment industry. Its membership consists of both manufacturers as well as dealers/distributors of equipment. WQA is a resource and information source, a voice for the industry, an educator of professionals, a laboratory for product testing, and a communicator with the public. WQA has more than 2,500 members nationwide. WQA promotes independent research through its support of the Water Quality Research Foundation.

— ### —