

# No more excessively hot showers in care homes

Article by Stéphanie Korpershoek, originally published in Dutch language on the website [www.detechniekachternederland.nl](http://www.detechniekachternederland.nl) on 5 July 2018



Pressure differences in drinking and hot water pipes can literally cause cold or excessively hot showers, which causes discomfort and dangerous situations. In large buildings such as hotels, hospitals and care homes in particular, these fluctuations in temperature are a common problem. Simply replacing the thermostatic tap is not a solution. Luckily there's a way to resolve this problem in a smart, simple and above all safe manner.

Taking a nice, hot shower seems like such a normal thing to do - that is, until the temperature suddenly drops or increases significantly. As well as reducing comfort, sudden fluctuations in temperature are also dangerous, yet these fluctuations in temperature still occur in many systems.

## Fluctuating temperatures

Oeds Kuipers, Director at Kuipers Drinkwater Security B.V. (KDWS) explains: 'Care home Het Hooheem in Grootegast approached us recently, as their water temperature was fluctuating rather a lot, leading to daily complaints. Residents suddenly found themselves standing under a shower that was excessively hot, which is not the intention, of course, as this poses a risk of scalding and falling in panic.'

Preliminary research conducted by KDWS revealed that pressure fluctuations formed the basis of the problem. The care home in Grootegast doesn't just offer assisted living, but also care apartments and rooms for short-term stays and day care. 'So, it is very difficult to maintain the same hot and cold water pressure in all

areas of the accommodation. The pressure fluctuations caused by this affect the operation of the thermostatic mixer tap. The mixer tap tries to compensate, but is unable to function optimally due to the large number of sudden pressure fluctuations.'

## Handy solution

The solution to the problem is found in the pressure independent flow regulator HL2024, which ensures that pressure fluctuations in the system have much less effect on the thermostatic mixer tap. HL2024 stabilises tap water systems without further adjustment being required. 'Initially, we installed 100 products, to be followed by another 50 products later in another wing. Since installation, we haven't had any more complaints from residents about temperature fluctuations and we've noticed that the system as a whole is more stable.'

Kuipers explains that the HL2024 regulators are installed at the inlets, i.e. between the S-connector and the hot and cold water attachment on the thermostatic mixer tap. Since a few weeks, the flow regulators have



been installed in the care home and residents are extremely satisfied with the constant shower temperature and stable flow.

#### **Responds fast and accurately**

According to Kuipers, several manufacturers have launched flow regulators on the market. However, these regulators never really achieved the desired results: the products aren't pressure-independent and don't respond accurately and quickly enough. 'That is very different in the case of HL2024. We are very enthusiastic about the results we've achieved.'

Kuipers explains that the HL2024 products are made out of very high-quality materials. Another benefit is that the high flow-through speed within the product and the choice of material minimises the likelihood of biofilm attaching, contributing to optimal drinking water quality.

HL2024 pressure-independent flow regulators are Kiwa certified for pressure independence (BRL-K635) and bear the Kiwa Water Mark.

