WaterSense
Accomplishments 2018

DEFEATING
WATER WASTE
SINCE 2006

EPA
Fighting Water Waste Since 2006

WaterSense, a partnership program sponsored by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), works collaboratively with companies, organizations, and communities to encourage innovation in manufacturing and support sustainable jobs for American workers. Since 2006, the WaterSense label has made it easy for consumers to find high-performing, water-efficient products. Millions of Americans are saving water, energy, and money by installing WaterSense labeled products in homes and businesses.

WaterSense Labeled Products

Ever since the first WaterSense labeled toilets hit store shelves in 2007, more and more product types have earned the WaterSense label, and the total number of WaterSense labeled models continues to grow.

WaterSense has helped reduce the amount of energy needed to heat, pump, and treat water by 462.5 billion kilowatt hours, enough to supply a year’s worth of power to more than 44.4 million homes.

That’s more than the amount of water used by all U.S. households for 4 months!... and more than 2,800 irrigation pros certified by WaterSense labeled programs.

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WaterSense has more than 2,000 organizational partners...
WaterSense Authorized

With the signing of the America’s Water Infrastructure Act of 2018 on October 24, 2018, the WaterSense program was formally authorized to promote water efficiency through adoption of WaterSense labeled products and other practices. The law also requires EPA to review any WaterSense specifications created before 2012 (see box below). WaterSense thanks its more than 2,000 partners who have made the program a success year after year.

Pre-Rinse Spray Valve Specification Sunset

In an example of how WaterSense successfully transforms the marketplace for water-efficient products, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) adopted the WaterSense efficiency threshold and performance test for a national energy standard covering commercial kitchen pre-rinse spray valves (PRSVs) sold in the United States. Therefore, although the specification for WaterSense labeled pre-rinse spray valves was sunset January 1, 2019, facilities can continue to ensure water savings and performance with PRSVs that meet the DOE standard.

Microirrigation Guides

WaterSense created two guides on microirrigation, a low-pressure, low-flow-rate type of irrigation technology. By delivering water directly to the root zone of plants, microirrigation (also known as “drip irrigation”) can reduce overwatering, prevent runoff, and reduce evaporation. The guides provide design, installation, and maintenance tips, to help homeowners and irrigation professionals maximize outdoor water savings while enhancing the health and beauty of the landscape.

Your Better Bathroom

Together with its partners, WaterSense launched the Your Better Bathroom campaign to demonstrate the wide variety of WaterSense labeled plumbing fixtures available in hundreds of styles, colors, price points, and features to fit any design aesthetic and budget. Not only do these fixtures look great, but they perform well and save consumers water, energy, and money on utility bills. WaterSense also created three “bath hack” videos to show simple ways to save water in the bathroom.

WaterSense Homes Program

Version 2.0

To better reflect today’s green building market and build upon the success of its WaterSense labeled homes program that began in 2009, EPA began working on Version 2.0 of its WaterSense Labeled Homes Program in 2018. The homes specification and certification system are being revised to increase flexibility in meeting WaterSense’s technical requirements without compromising a home’s water efficiency or performance. To earn the WaterSense label, homes will be required to have WaterSense labeled plumbing products installed and be at least 30 percent more water-efficient than typical new home construction.

What's Next?

Revisiting Specifications

As required by the America’s Water Infrastructure Act of 2018, EPA is reviewing existing WaterSense product specifications for tank-type toilets, flushing urinals, bathroom faucets, showerheads, and irrigation controllers for potential improvements to water efficiency and/or product performance.