



WaterSense® Specification for Homes

Version 2.0

February 2021

WaterSense Specification for Homes

1.0 Scope and Objective

This specification establishes the criteria for water-efficient homes (both single-family and multifamily, new and existing construction) under the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) WaterSense program.

A home must be built by a WaterSense builder partner and meet all of the criteria outlined in this specification to become a WaterSense labeled home.

The intent of this specification is to reduce water usage in residential homes, thereby lowering consumers' utility bills and encouraging water and wastewater infrastructure savings. The EPA's goal is that WaterSense labeled homes will be more water-efficient than a home with characteristics typical of new construction.*

This specification is not intended to contravene state or local codes and requirements. All homes, landscapes, and irrigation systems shall meet all applicable national, state, and local regulations. In addition, plumbing and irrigation installers shall meet all applicable state and local licensing requirements.

2.0 Technical Requirements

- 2.1 Mandatory Checklist—The home shall meet all requirements indicated in Appendix B: Mandatory Checklist for WaterSense Labeled Homes.
- 2.2 Water Efficiency Requirement—The home shall be at least 30 percent more water-efficient than a home with characteristics typical of new construction, determined through compliance with a WaterSense Approved Certification Method (WACM), as described in the current version of the *WaterSense Home Certification System*.

3.0 Future Specification Revisions

The EPA reserves the right to revise this specification should technological and/or market changes affect its usefulness to consumers, industry, or the environment. Industry partners and other interested parties will be notified in advance of anticipated changes. Revisions to the specification will be made following discussions with industry partners and other interested parties.

4.0 Definitions

Definitions within the current version of the *WaterSense Home Certification System* are included by reference.

* "Characteristics typical of new construction," described in more detail in the *WaterSense Technical Evaluation Process for Approving Home Certification Methods*, represent features of a home built to existing national standards and common design and landscape practices.

Appendix A: Informative Annex for WaterSense Labeling

The following requirements must be met before a home may earn the WaterSense label.

WaterSense Partnership

The home builder must have a signed partnership agreement in place with the EPA.

Conformity Assessment

Conformance to this specification must be certified by a Home Certification Organization (HCO) or HCO designee in accordance with the current version of the *WaterSense Home Certification System*.

Appendix B: Mandatory Checklist for WaterSense Labeled Homes

The following requirements within the Mandatory Checklist for WaterSense Labeled Homes (Mandatory Checklist) must be met before a home may earn the WaterSense label, regardless of the features used to meet the efficiency requirement specified in Section 2.2 of the *WaterSense Specification for Homes* or the WaterSense Approved Certification Method under which the home is pursuing certification.

The Mandatory Checklist is intended to ensure that all WaterSense labeled homes contain a minimum set of features that assure quality performance (the degree to which a home meets the user’s expectations relative to these features in typical construction), in addition to efficiency (the amount of water a home uses relative to a comparable home with characteristics typical of new construction).

Mandatory Checklist for WaterSense Labeled Homes

Item	Requirements	Confirmed
Leaks	Pressure-loss test on all water supplies detects no leaks	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
	Free of visible leaks from toilet(s), as determined through visual assessment and by conducting a dye tablet test in each toilet to ensure the flapper is not leaking	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
	Free of visible leaks from bathroom faucet(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
	Free of visible leaks from showerhead(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
	Free of visible leaks from bathroom tub faucet(s), i.e., tub spout(s), when showerhead(s) are activated, as determined through visual assessment after showerhead(s) have been activated for one minute	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
	Free of visible leaks from kitchen and other sink faucet(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
	Free of visible leaks from other fixtures or appliances (e.g., water heaters, clothes washers, dishwashers, hose bibbs, irrigation systems) at the point of use or point of connection to water distribution system	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Toilets	WaterSense labeled†	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Bathroom sink faucets	WaterSense labeled†	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Showerheads	WaterSense labeled†	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

† A listing of WaterSense labeled toilets, bathroom sink faucets, and showerheads can be found at: www.epa.gov/watersense/product-search.