



WaterSense Labeled Homes Program

Home Certification Organization: Home Innovation Research Labs

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) WaterSense® program works with Home Certification Organizations (HCOs) to certify and issue the WaterSense label to homes that meet EPA's criteria for both water efficiency and performance.

What's in a WaterSense Labeled Home?

All WaterSense labeled homes are independently certified to meet EPA's Mandatory Checklist and be at least 30 percent more water-efficient than a typical new home.



MANDATORY CHECKLIST TO ENSURE QUALITY PERFORMANCE

LEAKS

- Pressure-loss test on all water supplies detects no leaks
- Free of visible leaks from all fixtures and appliances at point of use or point of connection to water distribution system
 - Toilets
 - Bathroom faucets
 - Showerheads
 - Bathroom tub faucets, i.e., tub spouts
 - Kitchen and other sink faucets
 - Other fixtures or appliances (e.g., water heaters, clothes washers, dishwashers)

WATERSENSE LABELED PLUMBING FIXTURES

- Toilets
- Bathroom sink faucets
- Showerheads



EFFICIENCY REQUIREMENT

VERIFIED EFFICIENCY

- At least **30 percent** more water-efficient than a typical new home (based on national standards and common design and landscape practices).

What is a Home Certification Organization's Role in Labeling Homes for WaterSense?

Within the WaterSense Labeled Homes Program, HCOs are responsible for quality assurance, verifier training and oversight, home verification protocols, and reporting. HCOs also maintain their own certification method (reviewed and approved by EPA) to evaluate a home's water efficiency and determine whether it meets EPA's efficiency requirement. This **WaterSense Approved Certification Method (WACM)** can include features such as water-efficient fixtures, appliances, and systems (e.g., irrigation and hot water delivery) that builders can include in homes to meet the efficiency requirement. Keep reading to learn more.



How Builders Can Get Involved:

Are you a builder ready to get started? Partner with WaterSense and visit www.epa.gov/watersense/watersense-labeled-homes to learn more.

HCO Profile: Home Innovation Research Labs

Home Innovation Research Labs is an internationally recognized, third-party product testing and certification laboratory. Its work is solely focused on the residential construction industry, with a mission to improve the affordability, performance, and durability of housing. Home Innovation leverages its deep residential expertise and experience as an independent third-party lab in its administration of green certification programs for residential construction. Home Innovation serves as certification body for the ICC-700 National Green Building Standard (NGBS), a Multifamily Review Organization (MRO) for EPA's ENERGY STAR® Multifamily New Construction Program, and an HCO for the WaterSense Labeled Homes Program.

Method for Labeling Homes: NGBS Green with WaterSense

There are two compliance pathways based on selected practices from the 2020 NGBS:

- (1) **Prescriptive** – Implement selected practices from NGBS Chapter 8 or 11, including installing efficient plumbing fixtures, appliances, hot water distribution, and irrigation systems.
- (2) **Performance** – Demonstrate overall water performance by earning a Water Rating Index (WRI) score of 64 or lower. A WRI score is a value between 0 and 100 that indicates a property's total indoor and outdoor water use compared to a baseline based on the home's size and basic configurations.

Scope

The WaterSense label is available throughout the United States for single-family homes and multifamily buildings seeking NGBS Green Certification under the 2020 NGBS.

Building eligibility varies by compliance pathway:

- (1) **Prescriptive** – new construction and renovations.
- (2) **Performance** – new construction only.



Alignment With Other Certification Programs

Home Innovation's WaterSense compliance methods are based on selected practices from the 2020 NGBS.

Achievement of WaterSense certification under either pathway nearly satisfies the water efficiency requirements for NGBS Green Certification. Dual certification to NGBS Green and WaterSense offers NGBS Green Partners added marketing benefit through a streamlined dual-certification process.

Information for Verifiers

Home Innovation offers a water efficiency verification training—referred to as WRI Verifier training—for qualified NGBS Green Verifiers. By completing this training course, verifiers earn two credentials: (1) WRI Verifier and (2) WaterSense Home Verifier. To verify homes for WaterSense, a verifier must complete the entire training course, including training modules that address the WaterSense program overview, process, and compliance criteria.

For more information about Home Innovation Research Labs, visit:
www.HomeInnovation.com/WaterSenseCertification

