



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

OFFICE OF
WATER

November 2023

Dear Interested Party:

WaterSense® is a voluntary partnership program sponsored by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) that seeks to help consumers and businesses identify water-saving products, programs, services, and homes. Products that earn the WaterSense label are independently certified to use less water and perform as well or better than standard models.

EPA is pleased to announce the release of the *WaterSense Draft Specification for Spray Sprinkler Nozzles*. A spray sprinkler nozzle is a component of a sprinkler used for landscape irrigation. It is provided in combination with a sprinkler body to distribute water to the landscape. Approximately 28.8 million in-ground irrigation systems are currently installed in landscapes across the United States. EPA estimates that at least 90 percent of those systems could be equipped with more efficient nozzles to reduce water use, representing a large portion of the market available for transformation. This draft WaterSense specification was developed to enhance the market for more water-efficient spray sprinkler nozzles that continue to provide adequate and reliable irrigation.

Replacing spray sprinkler nozzles with models that have demonstrated water efficiency in the field or installing these more efficient models in new irrigation systems can reduce water use by approximately 10 percent compared to systems with traditional nozzle models. While these savings are less than WaterSense's target water savings of 20 percent for its product specifications, because spray irrigation is prevalent throughout landscapes in the United States, EPA still sees an opportunity for communities to save significant water by encouraging more efficient nozzles. EPA estimates that the average household with an in-ground sprinkler system using approximately 50,500 gallons of water per year for outdoor watering could eventually save approximately 2,400 gallons of water annually by replacing their spray nozzles with future WaterSense labeled spray sprinkler nozzles. Replacing all spray sprinkler nozzles across the United States with WaterSense labeled models in the future could save more than 62.8 billion gallons of water nationally each year.

The purpose of this letter is to request your feedback regarding the draft specification for spray sprinkler nozzles. EPA will accept written comments and plans to hold a public webinar to discuss the draft specification and feedback. The public meeting is scheduled for December 12 from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. Eastern. Details regarding webinar registration can be found on the WaterSense website at www.epa.gov/watersense/spray-sprinkler-nozzles.

Earning the WaterSense Label for Spray Sprinkler Nozzles

The *WaterSense Draft Specification for Spray Sprinkler Nozzles* proposes criteria that a spray sprinkler nozzle must meet in order to earn the WaterSense label. The

specification is designed to ensure both sustainable, efficient water use and a high level of performance.

With the announcement of this draft specification, manufacturers, retailers, and distributors that produce or sell spray sprinkler nozzles are welcome to join the program as WaterSense partners. Following the close of the comment period, EPA will review all comments and respond to comments, making any changes to the draft it deems necessary. EPA will then finalize the specification, and nozzle manufacturer partners can submit product applications to WaterSense licensed certifying bodies for certification and labeling.

Providing Input on the Draft Specification

EPA welcomes your input on the *WaterSense Draft Specification for Spray Sprinkler Nozzles*. The release also includes associated supporting materials, including the *WaterSense Draft Specification for Spray Sprinkler Nozzles Supporting Statement* and *Draft WaterSense Spray Sprinkler Nozzles Product Notification Template*. All interested parties are encouraged to review the draft specification and supporting materials and email their written comments no later than January 12, 2024.

Written comments should be directed to watersense-products@erg.com. All comments, except data claimed as confidential business information (CBI), become a part of the public record. Information that qualifies as CBI can be submitted as such through EPA's contractor, ERG, as described below. Sensitive business information can be claimed confidential under *40 CFR Part 2 Subpart B*. ERG has an EPA-approved security plan in place to protect CBI from unauthorized disclosure. All data submitted as confidential will be handled as such. CBI should not be submitted electronically but can be submitted as a hardcopy document or on a CD, DVD, or flash drive. Data submitted as CBI will not become a part of the public record unless aggregated and masked to conceal the identity of the submitter.

Data claimed as CBI should be submitted to:
ERG
Attn: WaterSense Helpline
2300 Wilson Boulevard, Suite 350
Arlington, VA 22201

If you have any questions, please contact Stephanie Tanner at (202) 564-2660 or tanner.stephanie@epa.gov, or the WaterSense Helpline at (866) 987-7367 or watersense@epa.gov. We look forward to receiving your feedback on the draft specification, as well as your organization's participation with WaterSense.

Sincerely,



Jonah Schein, Acting Branch Chief
WaterSense Branch