



# WaterSense® is Common Sense



## WaterSense Plumbing Products – An Easy Way to Save Water

Homes and buildings constructed before 1994 often have plumbing fixtures that use more water than necessary. The average family can save 13,000 gallons of water and \$130 in water costs per year by replacing all old, inefficient toilets in their home with WaterSense labeled models, according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

Plumbing Manufacturers International (PMI) urges policymakers, water utilities, installers and consumers to promote and use WaterSense products as a simple way to save water in America. PMI is a longtime WaterSense partner whose members produce 90% of the plumbing products sold in the U.S.

Upgrading aging water delivery infrastructure and avoiding the adverse consequences of lower flow rates also will contribute to a broad, systemic solution. Many regions struggle with water shortages due to droughts, aging infrastructure and rising populations. Aging infrastructure alone accounts for the loss of 1.7 trillion gallons of water each year, according to the U.S. Geological Survey.

## Look for the WaterSense Label



WaterSense is a voluntary, public-private partnership to bring high-performing, water-efficient plumbing products to consumers. Thousands of WaterSense products are available and can be found in a variety of price points and styles at home improvement stores, showrooms and online. These products meet high standards of performance, water efficiency and customer satisfaction.

## Facts of the Matter

**WaterSense fixtures use 20% less water than federal requirements.**

Products receive the WaterSense certification after undergoing rigorous independent testing for efficiency and performance.

**The average family can save 13,000 gallons of water a day** by installing

WaterSense toilets, showers, faucets and urinals in place of fixtures manufactured before the 1994 implementation of the 1992 Energy Policy Act (EPACT). That's more than a trillion gallons of water a year. But WaterSense products can't save water if they aren't being used, and most homes and businesses do not have these products yet, according to a study commissioned by PMI: [www.safeplumbing.org/watersense-study](http://www.safeplumbing.org/watersense-study).

**Consumers have saved more than 4.4 trillion gallons of water and \$87 billion in water and energy bills** since 2006 due to WaterSense products, according to the EPA.

**Arbitrarily lowering flow rates can have an adverse impact** on sanitation and plumbing product performance. Innovative, highly engineered products are the answer.

# Common Sense Ways to Save Water

*When shopping, look for WaterSense-labeled products*

## *Replace your toilet*

Toilets are one of the largest users of water inside the home – and offer the biggest opportunity for savings. The more gallons per flush (gpf), the more potential savings. For a family of four:

- Replacing a toilet using 7.0 gpf saves 42,000 gallons a year.
- Replacing a toilet using 5.0 gpf saves 30,000 gallons a year.
- Replacing a toilet using 3.5 gpf saves 16,000 gallons a year.
- Replacing a toilet using 1.6 gpf saves 2,000 gallons a year.

## *Replace your showerhead*

Newer, energy-efficient, water-saving showerheads use about 2.0 gallons per minute (gpm). That's a huge improvement over the previous showerhead standard of 7.0 gpm. Hundreds of gallons of water a week can be saved.

## *Replace your faucet*

Just like modern showerheads, WaterSense faucets use considerably less water, without compromising performance or consumer satisfaction. Older faucets use about 2.2 gpm, while WaterSense faucets use 1.5 gpm – a 30% savings.

## About PMI

Plumbing Manufacturers International (PMI) is the nation's leading industry association of plumbing



product manufacturers and a WaterSense partner. Our members produce 90% of the plumbing products sold in the U.S., operate facilities at more than 70 locations nationwide, and invest millions of dollars in water-efficiency research and development each year. PMI is a credible resource for policymakers, water utilities and consumers, with knowledge of plumbing product performance, codes and standards, health and safety, and customer satisfaction relating to plumbing products. PMI has a positive history of helping to create meaningful legislation and regulations at the federal and state level.

**PMI is Ready to Work with You**

**For more information, please contact PMI's Federal Affairs Consultant**

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## Become Involved in Maximizing Water Efficiency

- Create awareness of how to save water by replacing old fixtures and checking for leaks and drips. Even a slow drip can waste up to 10,000 gallons a year.
- Develop community outreach programs about the importance of water efficiency.
- Promote rebate programs for water-saving fixtures.
- Support efforts to upgrade aging water delivery infrastructure.
- Share the information in this fact sheet – **WaterSense is Common Sense**
- Visit [www.SafePlumbing.org](http://www.SafePlumbing.org) to learn more about the importance of saving water.

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