



WaterSense Labeled Homes Program

Program Overview

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) released Version 2 of its WaterSense Labeled Homes Program in February 2021. The revised program provides flexibility to builders while still meeting the water efficiency and performance criteria that consumers expect when they see the WaterSense label.

Savings and Performance

To earn the WaterSense label, homes are required to:



Follow a Mandatory Checklist (shown on the next page), which requires installation of WaterSense labeled plumbing products and confirmation that the home is free of visible water leaks.



Be at least **30 percent more water-efficient** than typical new construction. Adhering to a **WaterSense Approved Certification Method (WACM)** will ensure the home meets this requirement.

EPA's revised program for homes utilizes the organizational structures and processes of existing Home Certification Organizations (HCOs) to ensure effective certification and oversight occurs for WaterSense labeled homes.

EPA is responsible for reviewing and approving an HCO's WACM. To earn the WaterSense label, a home needs to meet the requirements of the Mandatory Checklist and demonstrate that it achieves the required water efficiency level (30 percent more efficient than typical new construction) using an approved WACM.

WaterSense's home certification requirements, such as quality assurance, verifier training, verification protocols, and reporting, will be administered through an HCO's existing certification processes. The certification of a home requires a single verification that can be done in a one-time visit by a WaterSense home verifier after the home is completed.



Photo courtesy of KB Home

GLOSSARY OF KEY TERMS

- **Home Certification Organization:** Independent organization responsible for administering home verification and certification to the WaterSense Specification for Homes, Version 2.0.
- **WaterSense Approved Certification Method:** The EPA-approved process the HCO administers to demonstrate that a home meets WaterSense's water efficiency requirement.
- **WaterSense Home Verifier:** Individual HCO trains and authorizes to verify (or rate) homes in accordance with the HCO's approved certification method.
- **Designee:** Party (such as a Provider) to whom the HCO has delegated specific verification and certification responsibilities.
- **Provider:** An organization that commits to hire or contract with inspectors, train inspectors, oversee new home inspections, and issue certification documentation for inspected homes.

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) is activated, as determine through visual assessment after the showerhead has 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 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

Why a 30 Percent Savings Requirement?

WaterSense labeled homes are required to be at least 30 percent more water-efficient than typical new construction. EPA has established this threshold to:

- Maintain household water savings relative to the previous version of the WaterSense labeled homes program.
- Establish a benchmark that, while relatively rigorous, is universally achievable regardless of local building market or climate.
- Provide an appropriate balance of indoor and outdoor water efficiency measures across all climates.

What Are the Benefits of WaterSense Labeled Homes?

WaterSense labeled homes are verified and certified to meet EPA's Mandatory Checklist and water efficiency criteria. Some of the benefits of WaterSense labeled homes may include:

- **Savings that perform.** WaterSense labeled homes are verified for performance as well as efficiency, including WaterSense labeled plumbing fixtures that are independently certified to use less water and perform as well or better than standard models.
- **Quantifiable savings.** Compared to typical new construction, the average family in a WaterSense labeled home can save more than 50,000 gallons of water annually inside and out, as well as over \$700 in water and electricity costs per year. Water savings could be even higher in hot, dry climates.
- **Peace of mind.** Trained professionals conduct independent verifications to ensure that WaterSense labeled homes meet EPA's criteria.
- **Outdoor ease.** High-performing landscapes are designed to be low-maintenance and water-efficient without sacrificing curb appeal. The addition of WaterSense labeled irrigation products help homeowners water smarter.

Learn more about the WaterSense Labeled Homes Program, Version 2 at www.epa.gov/watersense/homes.