



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

OFFICE OF
WATER

December 2022

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 and programs that earn the WaterSense label are independently certified to use at least 20 percent less water and perform as well or better than standard models.

EPA is pleased to announce the release of the *WaterSense Draft Specification for Point-of-Use Reverse Osmosis Systems*, which will add to WaterSense's line of labeled products. Reverse osmosis (RO) is the process by which pressure forces water through a semi-permeable membrane, creating a stream of treated water and a stream of reject water. A point-of-use RO system is a water filtration system that is connected to a single fixture (e.g., at the kitchen sink) and uses RO to remove contaminants from the incoming water supplied to that fixture. RO systems are effective at reducing common water contaminants of concern such as lead, chromium, and arsenic. However, a typical point-of-use RO system will send over five gallons of water down the drain for every gallon of treated water that it produces. The WaterSense specification was developed to address this inefficiency and enhance the market for more water-efficient RO systems that continue to provide adequate and reliable contaminant removal.

EPA is aware that there are other water treatment technologies, such as filtration and ultraviolet (UV) treatment, that do not generate any water waste. The intent of this specification is not to promote RO over other, less water-intensive treatment systems, but rather to help consumers who already intend to purchase an RO system identify those models that are both water-efficient and high-performing.

For consumers who intend to purchase an RO system, selecting WaterSense labeled system instead of a typical system will reduce water use for the average household by nearly 3,200 gallons of water per year compared to the water usage of a typical system.

The purpose of this letter is to request your feedback regarding the draft specification for point-of-use reverse osmosis systems. EPA will accept written comments and plans to hold a public meeting via a teleconference to discuss stakeholder comments.

Earning the WaterSense Label for Point-of-Use RO Systems

The *WaterSense Draft Specification for Point-of-Use Reverse Osmosis Systems* provides the proposed criteria that an RO system 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 and user satisfaction.

With the announcement of this draft specification, manufacturers, retailers and distributors that produce or sell point-of-use RO systems are welcome to join the program as WaterSense partners. Following the close of the comment period, EPA will review all comments and provide a consolidated response. EPA will then finalize the specification, and WaterSense manufacturer partners can submit product applications to WaterSense licensed certifying bodies for system certification and labeling.

Providing Input on the Draft Specification

EPA welcomes your input on the *WaterSense Draft Specification for Point-of-Use Reverse Osmosis Systems*. The release also includes associated supporting materials, including the *WaterSense Draft Specification for Point-of-Use Reverse Osmosis Systems Supporting Statement* and *Draft WaterSense Labeled Reverse Osmosis Systems Product Notification Template*. All interested parties are encouraged to review the draft specification and supporting materials and email their written comments no later than February 3, 2023.

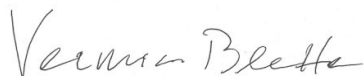
EPA will accept written comments on the WaterSense draft specification and plans to hold a public meeting via teleconference and webinar to discuss stakeholder feedback. The public meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 12, 2023, from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Eastern Time. Details regarding webinar registration can be found on the [WaterSense website](#).

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, Eastern Research Group, Inc. (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:
Eastern Research Group, Inc.
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,



Veronica Blette, Chief
WaterSense Branch