

This presentation premiered at WaterSmart Innovations

watersmartinnovations.com



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What's New With WaterSense® Labeled Homes



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WaterSmart Innovations 2014
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Agenda



- Why WaterSense Labeled Homes
- WaterSense for Multi-Family Homes
- Product Updates in Version 1.1
- Landscape Design & Irrigation Professional Requirements
- Questions



WaterSense Labeled New Homes Program



- First national new home labeling program for water efficiency
- Is an easy addition to programs such as ENERGY STAR and LEED that adds performance, efficiency, and value
- WaterSense labeled new homes:
 - Reduce water use in new homes by **at least 20%**
 - Educate homeowners about continuing water-efficient behaviors
 - Encourage community infrastructure savings
 - Are third-party certified



First community of all WaterSense labeled new homes in Issaquah, WA



Why Build WaterSense Labeled Homes?

- **Part of the “whole-house” building science approach**
 - Provides a key market differentiation
 - Allows builders to stay a step ahead of codes and utility rates
- **Ability to co-brand with WaterSense**
 - Access to WaterSense partner resources
 - Meet the growing demand for green products
 - Eligibility for awards
- **Convenience, efficiency, & confidence**
 - Hot water will be delivered to users faster and use less energy
 - Regionally appropriate landscaping
 - WaterSense labeled products provide efficiency *and* performance
 - Improved quality and reduced call backs



**WaterSense labeled new home by
HiPointe Homes
Colorado Springs, CO**

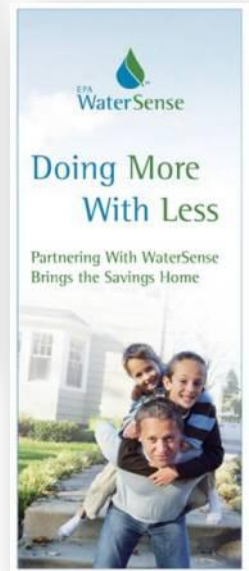
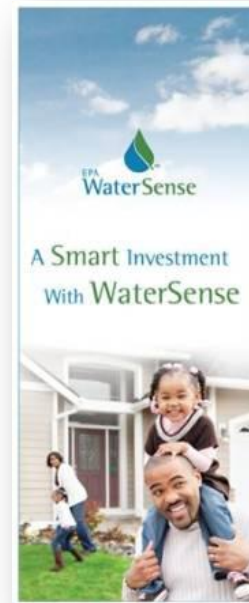


Selling a WaterSense Labeled Home

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- **Inside:** compared to a typical home, a family of four could save big in a WaterSense labeled new home
 - **50,000** gallons of water - equal to 2,000 loads of laundry
 - More than \$600 per year on water, sewer, and energy bills
- **Outside:** water-efficient landscapes are adaptable to local watering restrictions
 - Easily maintained
 - Offer long term curb appeal





What Tools Does EPA Provide?



A Healthy Yard Isn't Hard!

A colorful illustration of a house with a light brown exterior and an orange roof. The yard is lush with green grass, a large green tree, a hammock with a person reading, and several flower beds with pink, orange, and purple flowers. A winding path leads through the garden.

we build
WaterSense
Meets EPA Criteria

WaterSense® labeled homes have low-maintenance, beautiful landscapes that save water.



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What Tools Does EPA Provide?

Skeptical of
"low-flow"?

Choose
WaterSense®!

Don't sacrifice performance for water efficiency.

WaterSense labeled products
are certified to **PERFORM** as well or **BETTER** than standard models

...all while **SAVING** at least 20% more water!

www.epa.gov/watersense



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What Tools Does EPA Provide?

Save Water & Energy

Don't Waste Time! **Get Hot Water Fast!**

WaterSense® labeled homes
have efficient plumbing systems that get you
hot water right when you need it!

www.epa.gov/newhomes



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Specification Development



Major changes in the specification's scope & requirements apply to all homes labeled on or after January 1, 2013.

Why Make Changes?

Version 1.1

- Home building market changed significantly between 2007 and 2012
- New product technologies are available in the market
- Lessons learned from the first two years of labeling new homes
- Opportunity to expand the WaterSense program to new builders and stakeholders

Version 1.2

- Allows partners to take advantage of changes made to irrigation professionals program

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What's New?





Scope of version 1.1

- Single family homes & townhomes
- OR**
- Residential units in multi-family buildings three stories or less in size
- OR**
- Residential units in multi-family buildings, including mixed-use buildings, that have independent heating, cooling, and hot water systems separate from other units

Scope of version 1.1

Units in buildings that utilize central hot water systems powered by alternative energies, such as solar or geothermal, for domestic hot water are allowed if the alternative energy source provides at least 50 percent of the hot water needs for the residential units.



Requirements for Homes in MF Buildings

- Even though the units receive the label, buildings must meet certain common area and outdoor criteria in order to be labeled
 - Consider these prerequisites

Note: Specific requirements and considerations are summarized in Appendix D of the specification.





Requirements for Homes in MF Buildings

Laundry Facilities

- Common-use laundry rooms shall include ENERGY STAR qualified clothes washers with water factors of 6.0 or less

Metering

- Each labeled unit shall be individually metered, submetered, or equipped with alternate technology capable of tracking water use for individual units



Requirements for Homes in MF Buildings

Outdoors

- Outdoor criteria shall apply to all common use area that are improved upon
 - Includes areas that are landscapes (including sod or turf), water features, etc.
- If there is an irrigation system, it shall meet all existing criteria AND be independently metered, submetered, or equipped with an alternate technology.
- If units are occupied prior to completion of outdoor (or common-use space), the indoor inspection can be completed but the label should be withheld until all criteria are met.

Requirements for Homes in MF Buildings

Pools

- Are treated differently than in single-family homes
 - Typically larger pools with more advanced equipment and controls
- Are not accounted for in the landscape design criteria (as they are in single-family homes)
- Must be independently metered or submetered
- Must be equipped with a gutter or grate system
- Must be equipped with either sorptive media (pre-coat) or cartridge filtration





Requirements for Homes in MF Buildings

Education

- For homes in multi-family buildings there are two manuals required:
 - Occupant Operating Manual (one per home)
 - Building Operating Manual (one per building)

Pressure loss test

- Should be done in each individual unit to verify that water is being delivered at or below 60 psi
 - Can be done at a washer hookup, but may require an additional adapter if washer/dryer connections aren't present
 - If there is no shutoff for the unit's water supply this could be an indication the building is using riser pipe plumbing

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Product Requirements

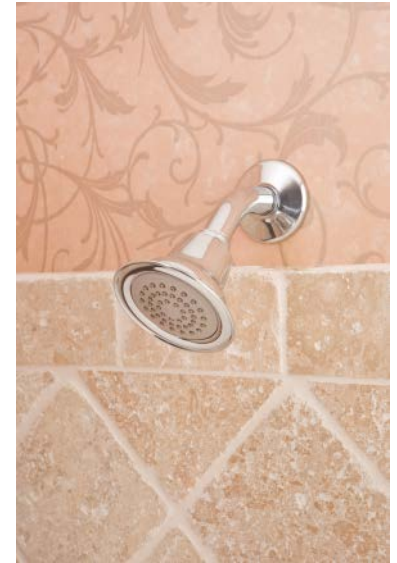




New Product Requirements

Showerheads

- There are almost 3,000 models of WaterSense labeled showerheads available



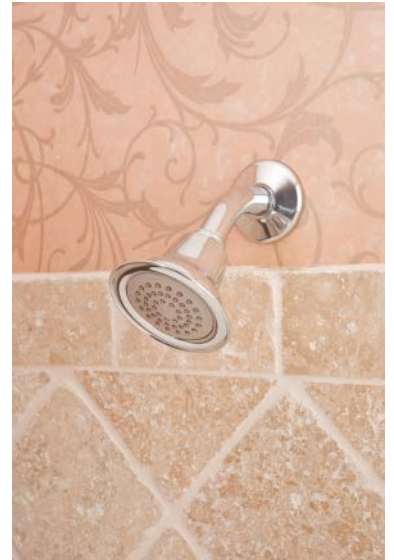
Weather Based Irrigation Controllers

- The first WaterSense labeled weather based irrigation controllers were labeled in May 2012, more than 150 models are currently available



Showerheads

- WaterSense labeled models now required
- WaterSense labeled showerheads are third party certified for efficiency AND performance – almost 3,000 labeled models
- The total output for multi-showerheads has been reduced from 2.5 gpm to 2.0 gpm



Irrigation controllers

- Beginning in June 2013, all weather based irrigation controllers must be WaterSense labeled
- WaterSense labeled controllers function like programmable thermostats for the yard – more than 150 labeled models
- Sensor based irrigation controllers will continue to be allowed and must meet feature requirements outlined in the specification



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Landscape Design & Irrigation Professionals



Landscape Design

Version 1 included two options to meet the landscape design requirements:

- Use the Water Budget Tool
- Limit turfgrass to 40% of the landscapable area

Version 1.1:

- Must use the Water Budget Tool

STEP 1 Location and Area	STEP 2 Plants and Irrigation	STEP 3 The Results
<p>Congratulations on choosing to design a locally appropriate water-efficient landscape! The WaterSense water budget tool will help you determine if your landscape meets EPA's criteria for efficient outdoor water use in your area.</p> <p>In order to use the water budget tool, you will need to know some basic information about your landscape:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The location and zip code • The total area of applicable landscape • Types of plants and the total coverage • Methods of irrigation (if any) <p>Your landscape will receive a pass/fail based on local climate, plant selection, irrigation methods, and size of the landscape. Follow the instructions on screen to find out if your landscape meets the WaterSense criteria.</p>		
<p>For what purpose is the tool being used? What are you landscaping? Please Select <input type="text"/></p> <p>How many sites? <input type="checkbox"/> Development of Multiple Landscapes <input type="checkbox"/> Single Site </p> <p>Is there an irrigation system? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No </p> <p>Enter Zip Code <input type="text"/> Enter Landscaped Area for a Single Home or Site¹ <input type="text"/> Sq. Ft. </p> <p>Enter Multi-Home/Development Landscaped Area Range¹ <input type="text"/> to <input type="text"/> Sq. Ft. </p> <p>NEXT STEP ></p>		



Landscape Design

- The Water Budget Tool has been used in the vast majority of labeled homes
- Online version of the tool is much simpler to use
- The removal of option 2 received minimal resistance from builders during the draft period and has posed no major problems over the last 2 years
- WaterSense staff is available to provide technical assistance



Irrigation Professionals



- Version 1.2 (released July 2014) replaces reference to “irrigation partners” with either “irrigation professionals certified by a WaterSense labeled program” or simply “certified irrigation professionals”
- Is effective immediately since this change only expands the pool of available professionals
 - Any professional who was already an irrigation partner is already a certified professional



Updated Materials

Training & Technical Materials

- Updated provider and inspector training materials
- New hot water distribution guide
- Updated resource manual
- Updated checklists and inspection guidance

Marketing and Promotional Materials

- Updated marketing and recruitment materials (available on the WaterSense partner site)
- Builder & provider tool kits



Questions/Contact



- WaterSense Information
 - Web site: www.epa.gov/watersense
- For questions:
 - E-mail: watersense-homes@epa.gov
 - Toll-free Helpline: (866) WTR-SENS
 - 1(866) 987-7367

OR

- Jonah Schein
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