



WaterSense® Works With the National Green Building Standard™



The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) developed the WaterSense New Home Specification to complement the water-efficiency criteria of other green building programs. Builders constructing homes to the National Green Building Standard, the U.S. Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design® for Homes rating system, or regional, state, or local green building programs might already be meeting many elements of the WaterSense new home specification. By going a few steps further to ensure the home's water-efficient features, these green homes could also earn the WaterSense label.

Multiple third-party certifications are an attractive feature in a market where construction companies are looking to gain a competitive edge by building green. According to *McGraw-Hill Construction's Smart Market Report*, 40 percent of builders agreed "green" makes it easier to sell homes in a down economy.

Homes built to the WaterSense new home specification meet indoor and outdoor water-efficiency criteria that help families save approximately 50,000 gallons of water and at least \$600 on utility costs each year compared to a typical home. These homes include WaterSense labeled plumbing fixtures, an efficient hot water delivery system, water-efficient landscape design, and other water- and energy-saving features. WaterSense labeled new homes are independently certified to meet EPA's water-efficiency and performance criteria.

What Is WaterSense?

WaterSense is a voluntary partnership and labeling program for water-efficient products, new homes, and programs. The WaterSense label is a simple way for consumers to identify water-efficient products that use at least 20 percent less water while still performing as well as or better than standard models. For quality assurance, all WaterSense labeled products are third-party certified to meet EPA's criteria for efficiency and performance. In addition to water-efficient new homes, WaterSense offers the label for toilets, bathroom faucets and faucet accessories, flushing urinals, showerheads, and certification programs for landscape irrigation professionals.



National Green Building Standard

The National Association of Home Builders (NAHB) created the National Green Building Standard as a way for homes to demonstrate compliance with the requirements of the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) for residential green buildings.¹ The National Green Building Standard is a point-based system that mandates green features and suggests additional features to meet higher green building thresholds.

The National Green Building Standard criteria and the WaterSense Labeled New Home Specification overlap in several areas. In other words, a home constructed to the National Green Building Standard could already be meeting some WaterSense criteria. The following page shows areas where the two programs' features can overlap.

¹ The ANSI-approved International Code Council (ICC) 700-2008 National Green Building Standard defines green building for single and multifamily homes, residential remodeling projects, and site development projects.

National Green Building Standard	WaterSense Labeled New Home Criteria
Inside	
Install a hot water delivery system that stores no more than 0.38 gallons of water.	WaterSense requires a home's hot water delivery system to store no more than 0.5 gallons of water between the hot water source and fixtures in all plumbing system types.
Install WaterSense labeled toilets.	WaterSense requires toilets to be WaterSense labeled.
Install WaterSense labeled flushing urinals.	WaterSense requires flushing urinals to be WaterSense labeled (if included).
Install WaterSense labeled bathroom faucets.	WaterSense requires bathroom faucets to be WaterSense labeled.
Install showerheads with a flow rate between 1.6 and 2.0 gallons per minute (gpm).	WaterSense will soon require WaterSense labeled showerheads, which have a maximum flow rate of 2.0 gpm.*
Install an ENERGY STAR® qualified dishwasher.	If a dishwasher is installed, WaterSense requires it to be ENERGY STAR qualified.
Install an ENERGY STAR qualified clothes washer with a water factor less than 6.0.	If a clothes washer is installed, WaterSense requires it to be ENERGY STAR qualified with a water factor less than 6.0.
Outside	
Use only 25 to 50 percent turf on the total landscape.	One option to meet WaterSense front yard landscaping requirements is 40 percent turf or less (Option 2). The other option is to landscape using the WaterSense Water Budget Tool (Option 1).
Use onsite trimmings and plant material for mulch on exposed soil during construction.	WaterSense requires that a landscape have no exposed soil; mulch two to three inches deep in permanent landscape.
No irrigation is installed and a plan is formulated to restore or enhance natural vegetation.	Irrigation systems are not required in WaterSense labeled new homes.
If an irrigation system is installed, points are available for <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Being designed and installed by a WaterSense irrigation partner. • Having a high distribution uniformity. • Using drip irrigation, bubblers, drip emitters, or soaker hoses. • Using subsurface irrigation. • Having an ET or moisture sensor-based controller. • Being zoned separately for turf and bedding areas. 	If an irrigation system is installed, WaterSense requires it: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be designed or installed and audited by a WaterSense irrigation partner. • Achieve a distribution uniformity greater than 65 percent. • Have an irrigation controller (multiple criteria apply). • Spray only on turf grass using drip or microspray on all other zones.
Education	
Provide a homeowner's manual.	WaterSense requires that builders present homeowners with an operating and maintenance manual that describes water-efficient features.

*EPA intends to add WaterSense labeled showerheads as a requirement to the WaterSense New Home Specification in 2012.

Please note that additional criteria must be met in order to earn the WaterSense label. This table includes only the criteria under the National Green Building Standard that contribute to meeting WaterSense new home labeling criteria.

To learn more about the National Green Building Standard, visit www.nahbgreen.org. For more information about WaterSense and the additional criteria necessary to meet the WaterSense New Home Specification, visit www.epa.gov/watersense.