

WATER CONSERVATION TIP

Brought to you by the Building & Safety Division

Water-Conserving Plumbing Fixtures

As of January 1, 2014 a new state law requires existing single-family homes have non-compliant plumbing fixtures be replaced with water-conserving plumbing fixtures. (Civil Code Section 1101.4)

Who will be impacted by the law?

The law will apply to existing single-family residential real properties built on or before **January 1, 1994** for all buildings undergoing additions, alterations or improvements. When permits are obtained for such work, home owners will require replacing non-compliant fixtures prior to a final permit approval by the Building Division.

What plumbing fixtures will require replacement?

The following water fixtures that use more water than listed in the table below are considered non-compliant fixtures.

Fixture Type	Non-Compliant Plumbing Fixtures when Greater than
Water Closets (Toilets)	1.6 max gallons/flush
Urinals	1.0 max gallons/flush
Showerheads	2.5 gallons per minute
Lavatory Faucets	2.2 gallons per minute
Kitchen Faucets	2.2 gallons per minute

What plumbing fixtures are considered compliant?

If the existing water fixtures are compliant, e.g., they match the maximum gallons noted in the above, and the scope of work is not directly affecting these fixtures, then no replacement is necessary. If the specific area of work involves replacement of water fixtures, e.g., kitchen remodel, bathroom remodel, or an addition with new plumbing fixtures, the new fixtures must be based on the maximum flow rates as regulated by the 2019 California Plumbing Code (effective January 1, 2020). See the table below.

Fixture Type	Water-Conserving Plumbing Fixture Maximum Water Usage / Flow Rate 2019 CPC Ch. 4 / 2019 CALGreen Div. 4.3
Water Closets (Toilets)	1.28 gallons/flush
Urinals	0.5 gallons/flush
Showerheads ¹	1.8 gallons per minute @ 80 psi (A hand-held shower is considered a showerhead) For multiple showerheads serving one shower, the combined flow rate of all showerheads and/or other shower outlets controlled by a single valve shall not exceed 2.0 gallons per minute @ 80 psi, or the shower shall be designed to allow only one shower outlet to be in operation at a time.
Lavatory Faucets	Maximum 1.5 gallons per minute @ 60 psi
Kitchen Faucets ²	1.8 gallons per minute @ 60 psi May temporarily increase up to 2.2 gallons per minute @ 60 psi, and must default to maximum 1.8 gallons per minute @ 60 psi

¹ Showerheads must be certified to the performance criteria of the U.S. EPA Water Sense Specification for Showerheads

² Where complying faucets are unavailable, aerators or other means may be used to achieve reduction

On and after January 1, 2014, building alterations or improvements shall require all non-compliant plumbing fixtures to be replaced with water-conserving plumbing fixtures throughout the building.

On or before January 1, 2017, all non-compliant plumbing fixtures shall be replaced with water-conserving plumbing fixtures (regardless of whether building undergoes alterations or improvements).