

Water Consumption by Water-Using Plumbing Products and Appliances (1980 to 2023)

Water-using Fixture or Appliance	1980s Water Use (typical)	1990 Requirement (maximum)	EPAct 1992 Maximum	Baseline Model Plumbing Codes (maximum)	Green Code Maximums (Calgreen)	% Redution in typical water use since 1980s
Residential Bathroom Lavatory Faucet	3.5+ gpm	2.5 gpm	2.2 gpm	2.2 gpm	1.2 gpm	66%
Kitchen Faucet (residential)	3.5+ gpm	2.5 gpm	2.2 gpm	2.2 gpm	1.8 gpm*	49%
Showerhead	3.5+ gpm	3.5 gpm	2.5 gpm	2.5 gpm	1.8 gpm	49%
Residential ("private") Toilet	5.0+ gpf	3.5 gpf	1.6 gpf	1.6 gpf	1.28 gpf	74%
Commercial ("public") Toilet	5.0+ gpf	3.5 gpf	1.6 gpf	1.6 gpf	1.28 gpf	74%
Urinal	1.5 to 3.0+ gpf	1.5 to 3.0+ gpf	1.0 gpf	1.0 gpf	0.125 gpf	96%
Commercial Lavatory Faucet	3.5+ gpm	2.5 gpm	2.2 gpm	0.5 gpm	0.5 gpm	86%
Food Service Pre-Rinse Spray Valve	5.0+ gpm	No requirement	1.6 gpm (EPAct 2005)	No requirement	1.28 gpm	74%
Residential Clothes Washing Machine	51 gallons per load	No requirement	26 gallons per load (2012 std)	No requirement	14 gallons per load (Energy Star)	73%
Residential Dishwasher	14 gallons per cycle	No requirement	6.5 gallons per cycle (2012 std)	No requirement	3.5 gallons per cycle (Energy Star)	75%

*Kitchen faucets may have a manual override that temporarily increases flow to 2.2 gpm max, and may default back to 1.8 gpm when the manual override is released.

Source: Modified from The Drainline Transport of Solid Wastes Buildings, by the Plumbing Efficiency Research Coalition (PERC), 2012. Chart updated by John Koeller and Peter DeMarco, 2018 and 2023.