



## Low-Flow Water-supplied Plumbing Fixtures

This fact sheet describes the latest Fort Collins building code amendments effective January 1, 2012-applicable to projects that involve installation of water-supplied plumbing fixtures identified in the table below.

### Code Reference

#### ***Colorado Plumbing Code/International Plumbing Code (IPC)—Sec. 604.4***

*“The maximum water consumption flow rates and quantities for all plumbing fixtures and fixture fittings shall be in accordance with Table 604.4 below and such fixtures shall be Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) WaterSense® labeled fixtures or such fixtures and fittings that provide the equivalent maximum flow rates.”*

<b>Maximum Flow Rates and Consumption for Plumbing Fixtures</b>	
<b>PLUMBING FIXTURE</b>	<b>MAXIMUM FLOW RATES</b>
Lavatory faucet, private	1.5 gallon per minute at 60 psi
Lavatory, faucet public (metering)	0.25 gallon per metering cycle
Lavatory faucet, public (other than metering)	0.5 gallon per minute at 60 psi
Shower head (includes hand held)	2.0 gallon per minute at 80 psi
Sink faucet	1.8 gallon per minute at 60 psi
Urinal	0.5 gallons per flush
Water closet	1.28 gallons per flushing cycle, with minimum MaP (solid-waste removal performance threshold) of 350 grams
Pre-rinse Spray Valves (food service industry)	Must meet federal requirements – Department of Energy (DOE) Energy Policy Act
Bar sinks (food service industry)	2.2 gallon per minute at 60 psi

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### **What are low-flow fixtures and why are they important?**

Low flow fixtures and low flow pre-rinse spray valves used in the food service industry use high pressure to produce sufficient flow without using nearly as much water as standard flow fixtures. Less hot water use reduces your energy bill, too.

The low-flow standard for toilets includes both water use and minimum performance criteria based on a particular toilet's ability to flush solid waste. Today's low-flush volume toilets often out-perform their conventional counterparts.

### **How do I comply with the code requirement?**

The new building codes require that water-supply fixtures meet the maximum flow rates or consumption specified in the table above. One easy way to do this is to specify WaterSense® labeled fixtures. WaterSense® is a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency program supporting water efficiency. It maintains a directory of lavatory (bathroom) faucets, showerheads, toilets and urinals that meet the program standards ([www.epa.gov/WaterSense/product\\_search.html](http://www.epa.gov/WaterSense/product_search.html)).



For sink faucets or other non-WaterSense labeled fixtures, ask suppliers for products with companion documentation meeting the specifications in the table above.

Building Services Division staff will inspect for appropriate labels and specifications.

### **Where are complying products available?**

A wide selection of compliant plumbing fixtures is available from traditional suppliers.

### **For more information**

[www.epa.gov/WaterSense](http://www.epa.gov/WaterSense)  
[www.map-testing.com](http://www.map-testing.com)

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