

Water Smart Home Technical Standards Effective for Inspections on or after January 1, 2009

Fact Sheet

Technologies continue to emerge that have the potential to take Southern Nevada's homes to even higher levels of water efficiency. To address changes in the product marketplace, the Water Smart Home Program will be introducing new requirements for homes inspected on or after **January 1, 2009**.

High-Efficiency Toilets (HET) Required - Toilets will need to meet a Maximum Performance (MaP) testing threshold of 350 grams with an average flush volume of 1.28 gallons. The flushing performance of most HET's exceeds the performance of the toilets our builders are currently using, thus, this measure should improve buyer satisfaction. All major manufacturers produce toilets that meet this standard. Detailed information about this standard is available from all manufacturers or the Southern Nevada Water Authority.

Point of Use Hot Water Systems defined - The program has allowed builders to select from one of three techniques for minimizing waste in hot water delivery. However, the previous agreement did not establish any technical standards for "point of use" systems. The new agreement defines "point of use" by a performance standard of 0.5 gallons or less discharged at any fixture before hot water arrives. In the absence of a recirculation system or manifold system, the inspector will conduct a flow and temperature test at a fixture of the inspector's choosing.

Higher Performance Standards for Dishwashers and Washing Machines - On the effective date, dishwashers will be required to meet a standard of 6.0 gallons per normal cycle. Washing machines offered through the builder will be required to meet an Energy Star Water Factor (WF) of 6.0 gallons per cubic foot of capacity. Among the manufacturers that dominate builder sales (Frigidaire, GE, JennAir, Kenmore, Kitchenaid, Maytag, Whirlpool), 63 percent of their current dishwashers and 66 percent of their washing machines meet the standard.

Smart Irrigation Controls Required for Common Area Landscape – Recent research indicates that "smart" irrigation controllers capable of estimating plant water needs can reduce landscape water use by 15 to 30 percent, while improving health and survival of plants. California has mandated that by 2012 only "smart" controls may be sold in the state, thus, this technology will be commonplace soon. SNWA incentives are available for up to half the cost of smart controls. Contact SNWA for information.

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