



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

OFFICE OF
WATER

December 2024

Dear Interested Party:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is pleased to release a draft Version 2.0 of its *WaterSense Specification for Private Lavatory Faucets*, which will revise the existing criteria for WaterSense labeled private lavatory faucets. Currently, the maximum flow rate for private lavatory faucets that earn the WaterSense label is 1.5 gallons per minute (gpm). Since EPA's initial release of the specification, several states have adopted regulations that require private lavatory faucets to have a maximum flow rate at or below 1.5 gpm, with some states establishing a maximum flow rate of 1.2 gpm. In recognition of the shifts in state regulations and the marketplace, EPA is lowering the maximum flow rate in the WaterSense specification to 1.2 gpm so that the WaterSense label can continue to be used to identify more efficient products.

Within this revision, EPA is also:

- Planning to exclude bar faucets from earning the WaterSense label, since these faucets are similar in use and function to kitchen faucets.
- Allowing metering faucets to earn the WaterSense label if they are equipped with a WaterSense labeled aerator.
- Establishing optional criteria for designation as a cold-start faucet. This will allow EPA to highlight the cold-start feature on the WaterSense Product Search Tool for those faucets
- Updating references to plumbing standards, product marking and documentation requirements, definitions, and technical clarifications in Version 2.0.

EPA requests your feedback regarding the draft revisions to the specification for private lavatory faucets. EPA also plans to hold a virtual public meeting to discuss the revisions.

Earning the WaterSense Label for Private Lavatory Faucets

The draft Version 2.0 of *WaterSense Specification for Private Lavatory Faucets* provides the proposed updated criteria that a private lavatory faucet must meet to earn the WaterSense label. The revisions to the specification are designed to ensure sustainable, efficient water use and a high level of performance and user satisfaction.

EPA is aware that the planned revisions will affect the certification status of some existing WaterSense labeled faucets and includes a timeline for compliance. This timeline also addresses the effect of this specification revision on the certification status of existing WaterSense labeled bar faucets, given their proposed exclusion from the scope. Otherwise, EPA anticipates that the revisions will not impact the certification status and will not require the retesting or recertification of private lavatory faucets that have a maximum flow rate less than or equal to 1.2 gpm. Further, the revisions will not impact the current licensing status of certifying bodies, and EPA will not require edits to licensing agreements or licensing agreement amendments currently in effect.

However, EPA advises existing WaterSense partners that manufacture or distribute private lavatory faucets to review the draft revised specification to understand impacts to their certification listings once finalized and consider whether a faucet can be designated as a cold-start faucet. Following the close of the comment period on January 8, 2025, EPA will review all comments and provide a consolidated response. EPA will then finalize the specification, establishing an effective date for compliance approximately 12 months following the final publication of Version 2.0. WaterSense manufacturer partners will need to coordinate with their certifying bodies to update certification listings according to the revised criteria, the revised scope, and the timeline for compliance.

Providing Input on the Draft Specification

EPA welcomes input on the draft Version 2.0 of *WaterSense Specification for Private Lavatory Faucets*. The release also includes associated supporting materials, including a redline version of the specification showing draft changes between Version 1.0 and Version 2.0 of the specification, the *Summary of Revisions to the WaterSense Specification for Private Lavatory Faucets*, and Draft Version 4.0 of the WaterSense Labeled Faucets and Faucet Accessories Product Notification Template.

EPA will hold a virtual public meeting to discuss the specification and stakeholder feedback on Thursday, December 19, 2024, from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Eastern. Details regarding webinar registration can be found on the [WaterSense website](#). Written comments should be directed to watersense-products@erg.com no later than January 15, 2025.

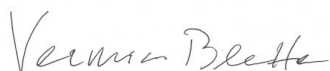
All comments, except data claimed as confidential business information (CBI), become a part of the public record. Information that qualifies as CBI can be submitted as such through EPA's contractor, ERG, as described below. Sensitive business information can be claimed confidential under 40 CFR Part 2 Subpart B. ERG has an EPA-approved security plan in place to protect CBI from unauthorized disclosure. All data submitted as confidential will be handled as such. CBI should not be submitted electronically but can be submitted as a hard copy or on a disk or flash drive. Data submitted as CBI will not become a part of the public record unless aggregated and masked to conceal the identity of the submitter.

Data claimed as CBI should be submitted to:

Attn: WaterSense Helpline
ERG
2300 Wilson Boulevard, Suite 350
Arlington, VA 22201

If you have any questions, please contact Stephanie Tanner at (202) 564-2660 or tanner.stephanie@epa.gov, or the WaterSense Helpline at (866) 987-7367 or watersense@epa.gov. We look forward to receiving your feedback on the draft specification, as well as your organization's participation with WaterSense.

Sincerely,



Veronica Blette, Chief
WaterSense Branch