

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

# ENERGY EFFICIENCY STANDARDS FOR WATER APPLIANCES

### Why is the California Energy Commission regulating water-using appliances?

California is having one of the driest years on record, causing some of the worst drought conditions in recorded history. It's so dry in California that in Jan. 2014, Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr. proclaimed a State of Emergency, and directed state officials to take necessary actions to prepare for and respond to drought conditions. In April 2015, the Governor directed the first ever statewide mandatory water reduction by executive order. The California Energy Commission prioritized water efficiency measures for faucets, toilets, and urinals to implement the Governor's vision for all Californians to conserve water in every way possible.

The transportation, distribution, and treatment of water all use substantial amounts of energy - this is known as the "water-energy nexus." Reducing the consumption of water saves energy - for example, it takes energy to make water hot and for that hot water to run through appliances like faucets. As a result, there are direct energy savings from reducing the amount of hot water used when running a faucet.

### Why is this necessary?

California consumes about 443 billion gallons of water a year for flushing toilets and urinals, and running faucets. Reducing water consumption by establishing minimum efficiency standards for these appliances is a key component of California's overall water and energy use strategies.

### How much water and energy can be saved?

The update to the standards for toilets, urinals, and faucets would save about 10.3 billion gallons of water, 30.6 million therms (Mtherm) of natural gas, and 218

## CALIFORNIA CONSUMES

**443** BILLION GALLONS  
of water per year

USING TOILETS, URINALS, AND FAUCETS

## NEW WATER STANDARDS WOULD SAVE

**105.6** BILLION GALLONS  
per year

THAT'S NEARLY **ONE OUT OF EVERY FOUR** GALLONS



Savings equal to

**1.4** TRILLION GLASSES  
of water

## CALIFORNIA HAS



gigawatt hours (GWh) a year when the standards are first in effect. By 2039 after the existing stock of water appliances are replaced, the savings increases to an estimated 105 billion gallons of water, 278 Mtherm of natural gas, and 2,100 GWh of electricity a year. This is a savings of more than three times the annual amount of water used by the City of San Francisco. In addition, the standards would reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 2 million tons of carbon dioxide annually.

### How many are there in California?

The average California home has two toilets, two lavatory faucets, and a kitchen faucet. As of January 2014, in California there are 30 million toilets, 1 million urinals and more than 45 million of various kinds of faucets.

### What appliances are covered under this standard?

Water related appliances including toilets, urinals, residential and public lavatory faucets, and kitchen faucets offered for sale in California are covered under this standard.

### What was adopted?

The Energy Commission adopted energy efficiency and water standards to require toilets, urinals, residential and public lavatory faucets, and kitchen faucets to consume less water thereby using less energy while performing the same function.

### When would these standards start?

As of January 2016, toilets, urinals and faucets offered for sale and installed in California will be much more efficient and waste less water.

### Will the new standards increase the cost of the new appliance?

No. The cost of efficient toilets, urinals and faucets is no different than the older, less efficient units. Consumers and businesses, however, will reap the savings immediately after installation of more efficient appliances.

### What else can consumers do to save water?

Governor Brown has called on all Californians to reduce their water use by 25 percent and prevent water waste – visit [SaveOurH2O.org](http://SaveOurH2O.org) to find out how everyone can do their part, and visit [Drought.CA.Gov](http://Drought.CA.Gov) to learn more about how California is dealing with the effects of the drought.

**Edmund G. Brown Jr.**  
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**Robert B. Weisenmiller**  
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**Robert Oglesby**  
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**Karen Douglas**  
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