



# WATER SAFETY AND EFFICIENCY REQUIREMENTS\*

EFFECTIVE JUNE 27, 2023


Maximum flush cycle, maximum flow rate and other requirements summarized below.






 **SINGLE-PASS SYSTEMS, INCLUDING ONCE-THROUGH COOLING**  
Prohibited

 **TOILETS**  
4.8 L/flush.  
Full flush on a dual-flush toilet shall not exceed 4.8 L

 **URINALS**  
1.9 L/flush


 **SHOWER HEADS\*\***  
7.6 L/min

 **LAVATORY FAUCETS\*\***  
Private use 5.7 L/min +  self-closing  
Public use 1.9 L/min

 **KITCHEN FAUCETS\*\***  
Residential use 6.8 L/min  
Non-residential use 8.3 L/min

 **PRE-RINSE SPRAY VALVES**  
4.8 L/min


 **DISHWASHERS** 


 **CLOTHES WASHERS** 


 **ICE MAKERS** 


 **COMMERCIAL STEAM COOKERS** 


 **COMBINATION OVENS** 


 **HOT WATER**  
Domestic hot water to be stored at a minimum of 60°C within a tank. A minimum of 49°C is required within a recirculation loop.


 **COOLING TOWERS AND EVAPORATIVE CONDENSERS**  
Operating permit required for new and existing systems. *Legionella pneumophila* reporting required at seasonal start-up and every month of operation.


 **DECORATIVE WATER FEATURES<sup>†</sup>**  
Operating permit required for new and existing systems. *Legionella pneumophila* reporting required every two months of operation.


 **BUILDING WATER TREATMENT SYSTEMS<sup>††</sup>**  
Operating permit required for new and existing systems treating potable water.

 **ALTERNATE WATER SYSTEMS, INCLUDING RAINWATER HARVESTING<sup>††</sup>**  
Operating permit required for new and existing systems. Water quality reporting required every two months.

 **PIPE SIZING & MATERIALS**  
IAPMO Water Demand Calculator may be used. New requirements for stainless steel. New, limited applications for cellular core PVC and fibrocement.

 **GEOEXCHANGE SYSTEMS**  
Methanol use prohibited. Open-loop systems shall not discharge to sewer.

 **VEHICLE WASH FACILITIES**  
**Automatic systems:** recycle at least 60% of water.  
**Self-service:** 11.4 L/min for foam brushes and spray wands.

 **RESIDENTIAL LANDSCAPE IRRIGATION SYSTEMS**  
Pressure reducing valve may be required. Fertilization and chemigation prohibited.

For more information visit:  
[vancouver.ca/operating-permit](http://vancouver.ca/operating-permit)  
[vancouver.ca/building-bylaw](http://vancouver.ca/building-bylaw)



\* Summary does not include all applicable Vancouver Building By-law and Water Works By-law plumbing requirements.  
\*\* Exempt are fixtures within treatment and care (Group B) occupancies and those listed in a professional water management plan.  
† Exempt are systems for single-family homes and duplexes. Green walls, fish ponds, and natural bodies of water are also exempt.  
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