

Water Efficient Fixtures Bylaw

On January 1, 2008, the City of Edmonton's Water Efficient Fixtures Bylaw takes effect.

It requires water efficient fixtures (toilets, showerheads, faucets) to be installed in all new development and major renovations that require plumbing permits.

Why implement a water bylaw?

Water is a limited resource. Due to Edmonton's growth and other environmental challenges, there is increasing demand on the city's long-term water supply. As part of the City of Edmonton's commitment to the environment, this bylaw will help us all to manage water wisely.

What is a water efficient fixture?

Faucets, showerheads and toilets are just a few examples of the fixtures available in water efficient models. Although water efficient fixtures use less water, they provide the same or even improved level of performance compared to non-efficient models. As an added bonus, they also help lower monthly water and sewer bills.

When must water efficient fixtures be installed?

- In all new construction, residential and commercial
- In any existing building or home undergoing renovations that require a plumbing permit

What type of fixtures must now be used?

Toilets (bowl and tank) — No greater than 6 litres (1.6 US gallons) per flush.

Urinals — No greater than 3.8 litres (1.0 US gallons) per flush.

Faucets and Showerheads —

- New or renovated homes — showerheads no greater than 9.5 litres per minute and faucets no greater than 8.3 litres per minute.
- Commercial restrooms — faucets no greater than 1.9 litres (0.5 US gallons) per minute.

Cooling Systems — (typically used in commercial buildings for air conditioning)

Once-through cooling systems (that do not recycle water) are no longer allowed to be installed, except as emergency or back-up cooling systems.

Note: All fixtures must comply with the National Plumbing Code (approved or certified by the Canadian Standards Association (CSA) or an equivalent agency).

Do I have to replace my current fixtures?

No. This bylaw is not retroactive, but choosing water efficient fixtures will save you money. It's also something positive you can do to conserve water.

More information

Permitting and Licensing

Call: 311

Outside Edmonton: 780-442-5311

Fax: 780-496-6054

Visit: 5th Floor,

10250 – 101 Street NW Edmonton

Hours of operation:

8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Monday through Friday

www.edmonton.ca

Find out about the City of Edmonton's other permit requirements, such as building and plumbing permits at www.edmonton.ca/pdd/brochures.

The Water Efficient Fixtures Bylaw is available at www.edmonton.ca/bylaws/14571.doc



January 2010

Wise Water Use

Water Efficient Fixtures Bylaw

What you need to know

Water Efficient Fixtures: The facts

Are water efficient fixtures expensive?

Water efficient fixtures can be slightly more costly than older fixtures. But when you add the savings on your monthly bill, money saved far outweighs any additional dollars spent on the actual fixture.

How will water efficient fixtures affect the performance of my shower or faucet?

Good quality water efficient fixtures are designed to provide a quality spray using significantly less water. This saves you money on your water bill and it can also potentially reduce the natural gas costs related to heating water.

Do I have to flush the toilet more than once?

No. The newly designed water efficient toilets do not rely on large volumes of water to remove waste.

What should I look for in a water efficient toilet?

Not all water efficient toilets perform the same. Look for a reputable brand name and consult with a hardware or plumbing representative when making your purchase. Avoid toilets that:

- use flappers with adjustable floats,
- use rubber flapper chains,
- use float-arm fill valves (ballcock), and
- have fill valves affected by changes in water pressure.

Will a water efficient toilet installed in my basement clog the sewerline?

No. This should not be a problem if your water efficient toilet is properly installed to code. Water drained from your bathtub, dishwasher and washing machine provide plenty of water flow through to the sewer drainage system.

Can waterless urinal systems be used?

Yes, this is an option.

Do any other cities have a bylaw like this one?

Yes. Calgary, County of Strathcona, Airdrie, Okotoks and Cochrane have water efficient fixture bylaws. Water efficient fixtures are also required in Ontario's Plumbing Code and in British Columbia's Capital Regional District.

Where can I find more tips on using water wisely?

Visit www.epcor.ca and type in "water efficiency" into the search engine.

Where can I find more information on water efficient toilets?

Go to the Canadian Water and Wastewater Association's web site at www.cwwa.ca.

Scenario	Plumbing Permit Required	Water Efficient Fixture Required?
Adding new bathroom to building or home	Yes*	Yes
Replacing an existing toilet	No	No (but recommended)
Renovating an existing kitchen	Yes, if piping is being changed	Yes
Renovating washroom(s) (commercial, restaurant or school location)	Yes*	Yes
Renovating multi-family apartments	Yes*	Yes
Replacing cooling systems	Yes, if piping is being changed	Yes (except for emergency or backup cooling systems)

* Building permit also required.

Toilet Size	Annual Water Use (Edmonton average household of 2.7 people)*	Annual Costs (including GST)**	GHG emissions (kilograms)
20 L toilet	98 cubic metres	\$242	176
13 L toilet	64 cubic metre	\$148	115
6 L toilet	30 cubic metres	\$74	54

* All figures are estimates based on the Canadian average of five flushes per person per day.

** Costs based on current EPCOR water and sewer rates as of September 2007 (metered single family dwelling – \$1.3819/ cubic metre (m3) for the first 60 m3 and \$1.4284/ m3 over the 60 m3 limit. Sewage charges are 94.94 cents/m3 of incoming water volume).