



2024 Efficiency Code Changes to Help Conserve Region's Limited Water Supplies

Water is a precious resource and critical to the safety and vitality of our communities. In the Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District, 98 percent of water comes from surface water, such as rivers, streams and reservoirs. Water planning is critical to protect the quantity and quality of this water supply.





The District plays a critical role in coordinating the water planning work of the region's 15 counties and 96 cities. It is the only major metropolitan area in the country with more than 100 jurisdictions implementing a long-term comprehensive and integrated water conservation program that is required and enforced. This holistic approach to regional water management has been very effective – helping to lower the region's per capita water use by 30 percent since 2000.



2022 Water Resources Management Plan

In 2022, water experts, utilities, and citizens throughout the metro Atlanta area collaborated to update the regional Water Resources Management Plan. The Plan was approved by the Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District Board in December 2022. Local governments are expected to begin implementing the plan in early 2023.

New and renovated buildings will require high-efficiency water fixtures starting in 2024

The new water efficiency code requirements incorporate the latest water-efficiency products that are readily available in the marketplace and will apply to new construction of homes and multi-family properties, as well as building renovations, effective January 1, 2024. Required water-efficient plumbing fixtures, equipment, and irrigation system components are one of many key water conservation strategies in the updated plan to help protect our region's limited water supplies. Georgia already has state-wide minimum standards in place for indoor and outdoor (landscape irrigation) water efficiency.

INDOOR CODES	ANNUAL WATER SAVINGS	ANNUAL HOUSEHOLD SAVINGS
Showerheads 2.0 gallons per minute 	2,667 gallons <small>(based on average 2.3 showers per house, each shower 8.2 mins.)</small>	\$49 <small>water and energy savings</small>
ENERGY STAR® Clothes Washers FRONT LOADING 	1,966 gallons <small>(based on 291 loads per year)</small>	\$44 <small>water and energy savings</small>
TOP LOADING 	2,884 gallons <small>(based on 291 loads per year)</small>	\$54 <small>water and energy savings</small>
Faucets 1.2 gallons per minute 	570+ gallons <small>(based on 0.6 GPCD weighted average reductions and average 2.6 people per household)</small>	\$22+ <small>water and energy savings</small>

OUTDOOR CODES	ANNUAL WATER SAVINGS	ANNUAL HOUSEHOLD SAVINGS
Sprinkler bodies pressure regulated 	9,873 gallons <small>(based on average residential irrigation)</small>	\$143 <small>water savings</small>
WaterSense® Irrigation Controllers non-single family systems only 	7,575 gallons <small>(based on average residential irrigation)</small>	\$110 <small>water savings</small>



Answers to Frequently Asked Questions



How will the new codes result in water savings?

The "Water Efficiency Code Requirements" will help save water by ensuring that new homes, new apartments, and existing home and building renovations install leading available water-efficient showerheads, faucets, clothes washers, and sprinkler system components. These changes will use less water and conserve the supplies we have available for our growing region.

How much water savings are we talking about?

Water savings from the new water efficiency requirements will quickly add up. The adoption of the indoor and outdoor residential plumbing code changes could save up to 17,000 gallons of water per home annually.

Indoors

The indoor residential plumbing code changes focus on water efficient faucets, showerheads and ENERGY STAR® clothes washers that are readily available in the market.

Outdoors

Outdoor landscape watering can account for 40% to 60% of total water use, especially during summer months. Excessive use of water for landscape irrigation is frequently caused by high pressure in water lines and uneven application of water. In addition, older irrigation controllers without properly installed rain sensors can result in overwatering.

Installation of new pressure-regulated sprinkler bodies and WaterSense irrigation controllers can save more than 17,000 gallons of water per house, per year.



When will the new codes be adopted and required?

Local governments are responsible for adopting and implementing the Water Resources Management Plan including the water efficiency code requirements. Effective January 1, 2024, local officials will maintain the Metro Water District - Water Efficiency Code Requirements as a local amendment to the Georgia State Minimum Standard Plumbing Code.

Sources:

WaterSense Specification for Showerheads Supporting Statement

WaterSense High-Efficiency Lavatory Faucet Specification Supporting Statement

US EPA Consumer Messaging Guide for Energy Star Certified Appliances



More questions?

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