

WATER SAFETY AND EFFICIENCY REQUIREMENTS*

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

Updated June 20, 2025



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/minute



LAVATORY FAUCETS**
Private use 5.7 L/minute
Public use 1.9 L/minute + ● self-closing



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



PRE-RINSE SPRAY VALVES
4.8 L/minute



CLOTHES WASHERS



DISHWASHERS



ICE MAKERS



COMMERCIAL STEAM COOKERS



COMBINATION OVENS



CROSS CONNECTION CONTROL
Backflow preventers shall be selected and installed in conformance with CSA B64.10.



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†
Operating permit required for new and existing systems. *Legionella pneumophila* reporting required at seasonal start-up and at least once annually.



BUILDING WATER TREATMENT SYSTEMS††
Operating permit required for new and existing systems treating potable water.



NON-POTABLE (ALTERNATE) WATER SYSTEMS USING RAINWATER OR STORMWATER††
Operating permit required for new and existing systems. Water quality reporting required every two months.



GREYWATER REUSE SYSTEMS
Residential systems certified to NSF 350 Class R may be installed.



PIPE SIZING
IAPMO Water Demand Calculator may be used.



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/minute 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
vancouver.ca/building-bylaw



* Summary does not include all applicable Vancouver Building 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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