

# WATER SAFETY, EFFICIENCY AND SEWAGE REQUIREMENTS\*

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

Updated September 19, 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



## KITCHEN FAUCETS\*\* + ● self-closing

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 AND COMBINATION OVENS



## GREASE INTERCEPTORS

Must be certified to CSA B481.0 and B481.3; ASME A112.14.3; ASME A112.14.4; or IAPMO Z1001.



## RAINWATER MANAGEMENT

Most new buildings must provide on-site rainwater management.



## HOT WATER

Domestic hot water must 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

Operating permit required for new and existing systems using rainwater or stormwater.†† Water quality reporting required every two months.

Residential greywater reuse systems certified to NSF 350 Class R may be installed, and no operating permit or water quality reporting is required.



## CROSS CONNECTION CONTROL

Backflow preventers must be selected and installed in conformance with CSA B64.10.



## PIPE SIZING

IAPMO Water Demand Calculator may be used.



## GEOEXCHANGE SYSTEMS

Methanol use prohibited. Open-loop systems must not discharge to sewer.



## VEHICLE WASH FACILITIES

**Automatic systems:** must 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. Fertigation and chemigation prohibited.

For more information visit:

[vancouver.ca/operating-permit](https://vancouver.ca/operating-permit)

[vancouver.ca/building-bylaw](https://vancouver.ca/building-bylaw)

[vancouver.ca/rainwater](https://vancouver.ca/rainwater)



\* 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 detached homes, duplexes and multiplexes. Green walls, fish ponds, and natural bodies of water are also exempt.

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