



ARE MY FIXTURES EFFICIENT?

Sometimes it is hard to determine if existing fixtures in your home are water wasters, but the good news is, you can usually figure it out with a little detective work!

Toilets

- Many newer toilets have a stamp behind the toilet seat and/or stamped inside the toilet tank wall which shows the flush rate in gallons per flush (GPF).
- If the inside of your toilet tank does not show your GPF, it may still show a manufacture date.
- If your toilet was manufactured before 1992 it may be a 3.5 or 5 GPF! If it was manufactured between 1992 and 2013, it is probably a 1.6 GPF. Toilets sold since 2014 should be 1.28 gpf or less.
- Keep in mind, toilets tend to lose efficiency as they age! An older 1.6 GPF toilet may in fact be using a lot more per flush.



Showerheads

- Showerheads should have the flow rate stamped on the device. You may need a magnifying glass, or to clean the shower head to see the small text. Flow rate is usually shown in gallons per minute (GPM).
- If you cannot easily see the flow rate, try a flow bag. These are plastic bags with markings that enable you to easily gauge the flow rate. Simply hold the bag around a shower head or faucet, run the fixture for the predetermined number of seconds (a stopwatch or timer is needed for this part), then note the water level in the bag - done!
- If you don't have a flow bag, try a bucket. If it takes 30 seconds to fill up a one-gallon bucket, you have a 2 GPM showerhead.
- All showerheads sold in California should be 2.0 GPM or less. Fixtures 1.5 - 2.0 GPM easily rinse shampoo out of hair.



Clothes Washers

- Before new standards were adopted in 2010, traditional top loading clothes washers used around 30 to 45 gallons per load. Newer top loaders have improved to around 30 gallons per load but cannot compete with the water saving ability of new front-loading machines which typically use under 15 gallons per load.
- If you aren't sure how old the machine is, try locating the serial number (not the same as the model number). The date of manufacture is encoded in the serial number. Some manufacturers use two letters to denote the month and then the year. For example, DE89 embedded in the serial number is December 1989.
- If you still cannot determine the age write down the entire serial number and search online. Some websites are able to provide the date of manufacture simply by entering the serial number and a few other bits of information.

Still need help? Discover an inefficient fixture and want to see if you could get a rebate to replace it? Contact your local water agency and discover what programs are available in your area! <https://watersavingtips.org/learn/rebates>

Visit the Watsonville Nature Center **FREE**

Open 11 - 5 Saturdays & Sundays, 11- 4 Winter hours, closed holidays
30 Harkins Slough Road

Your one stop for Watsonville Slough trail maps, conservation information
and family activities

Bilingual trail walk every Sunday @ 1:30

10 miles of Slough trails open to explore every day!



Jay Welty Landscaping



**FENCES • CARPENTRY • WATERFALLS • DECKS • SPRINKLERS • SOD
STONE WORK • PLANTS • FLAGSTONE PATIOS • POND INSTALLER**

831.684.0433

STATE LICENSED FOR 30 YEARS #359654