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# WaterSense<sup>®</sup> Labeled Homes



**Alicia Marrs**  
WaterSense Program  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency



# WaterSense Labeled New Homes Program

- First national new home labeling program for water efficiency
- Works with other green building programs
- Homes must be inspected and certified by an independent third party to meet EPA criteria
- Units in multifamily buildings can now earn the label



**First community of all WaterSense  
labeled new homes in  
Issaquah, WA**

# WaterSense Labeled New Homes



**WaterSense labeled new home by  
HiPoint Homes  
Colorado Springs, CO**

- WaterSense labeled new homes will:
  - Reduce water use in new homes by 20%
  - Educate homeowners about continuing water-efficient behaviors
  - Encourage community infrastructure savings
- Nearly 350 homes labeled to date
  - Colorado Springs has the highest concentration of custom builders building to WaterSense in the nation





# Acceptance of WaterSense



- The WaterSense label is recognized by other green programs
  - FEMP Designated Products
  - U.S. Green Building Council's LEED Rating Systems
  - Green Globes' Green Building Initiative
  - National Association of Home Builders' National Green Building Standard
  - International Code Council's International Green Construction Code
  - IAPMO Green Technical Supplement
  - States and Municipalities

# WaterSense® Labeled New Homes

## Outdoor Criteria

- Be designed using the WaterSense Water Budget Tool
- Irrigation system (*if installed*)
  - Designed or installed by a WaterSense irrigation partner
  - Audited by a WaterSense irrigation partner
  - Design and technology criteria
- Other water features (*if installed*)
  - Pools/spas - require covers
  - Ornamental water features



Healthy, beautiful landscapes that allow the homeowner to save water

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# Building & Inspecting a WaterSense Labeled New Home



# What Makes a WaterSense Labeled Home?







# WaterSense® Labeled New Homes

## Indoor Criteria

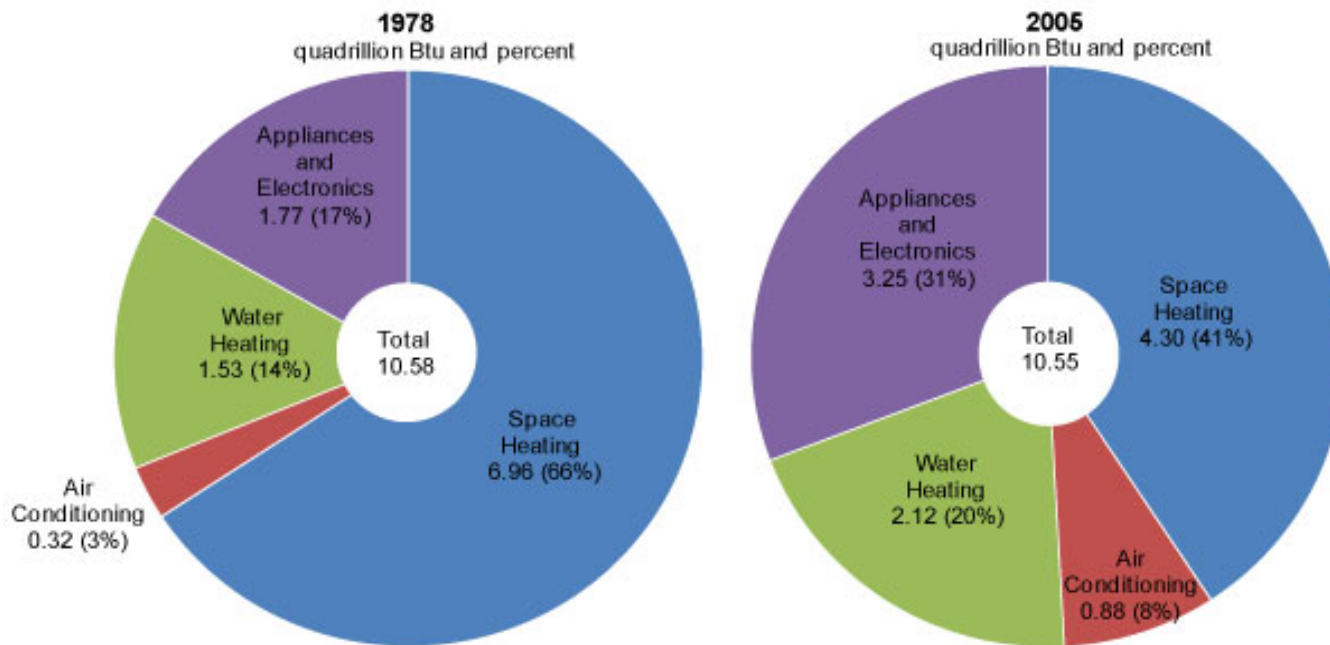
- **Required items:**
  - Water service pressure maximum 60 psi
  - Leak prevention measures
  - WaterSense labeled plumbing fixtures
  - Other water-efficient appliances
  - Efficient hot water distribution system
    - Performance-based - to minimize time for hot water to reach the tap
    - All recirculating systems **must be** demand initiated
- **Other items must meet efficiency criteria, if installed:**
  - ENERGY STAR qualified dishwasher or clothes washer (if appliances installed)
  - Evaporative air conditioners
  - Water softeners
  - Drinking water treatment systems



# Hot Water Distribution Systems

## Energy by End Use

Total energy use in homes



Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration, 1978 and 2005 Residential Energy Consumption Survey

# Hot Water Distribution Systems Performance Requirement

- The system shall store no more than 0.5 gallons in any piping/manifold between the hot water source and any hot water fixture.
- No more than 0.6 gallons of water shall be collected from the fixture before hot water is delivered (accounts for water that must be removed from the system before hot water can be delivered).
- Recirculation systems must be demand initiated (push button or motion sensor).
  - Timer and temperature activated recirculation systems do not meet this requirement.



# Website & Resources



- Easy to find on the WaterSense homepage
  - Look for the “New Homes” tab
  - [www.epa.gov/watersense/new\\_homes](http://www.epa.gov/watersense/new_homes)
- Inspection video
- Resources for plumbers
- Technical documents
  - [http://www.epa.gov/watersense/new\\_homes/homes\\_final.html](http://www.epa.gov/watersense/new_homes/homes_final.html)

### Who's Building in Your State?

WaterSense labeled new homes are popping up all across the country. Saving water, energy, and money makes sense wherever you might live—whether your region has recently experienced a drought or is flush with lakes and streams. Find a [WaterSense builder partner in your state](#). And check out a few of the homes below that have been built to date!

Chapel Hill, NC (Vanguard)	Hendersonville, NC (Nappier Homes)	Colorado Springs, CO (GJ Gardner)	Roseville, CA (KB Home)

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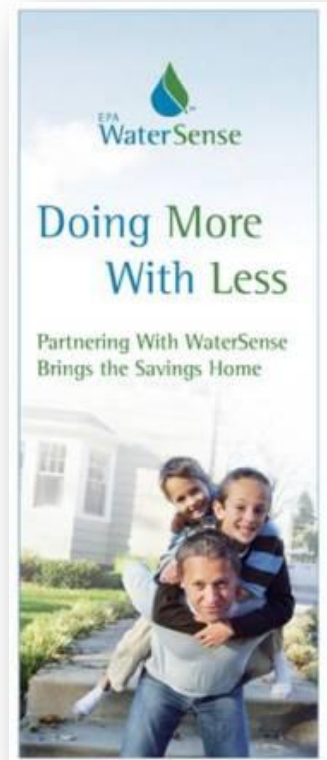
# Recruit Builders

## What to Offer?

- National specs for water-efficient products and services w/ ability to localize
- New opportunity for distinction in the market
- Easy add-on
- Recognition from EPA as a water-efficiency leader
- Membership in a network of water-efficiency leaders
- available from WaterSense
- Identify Low Hanging Fruit
  - Active green builders
  - ENERGY STAR builders
- Offer recognition
  - Builders LOVE to be first

## Who & How?

- Recruitment tools

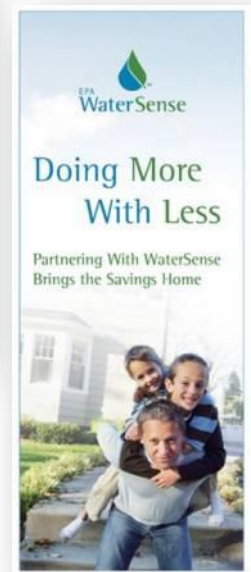
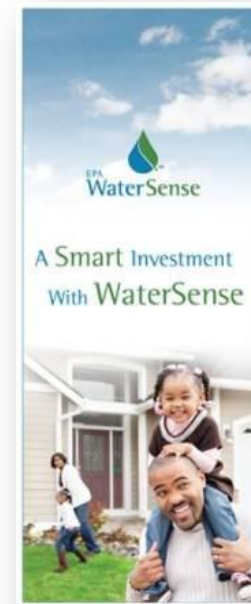


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# Selling a WaterSense Labeled Home

- **Inside:** compared to a typical home, a family of four could save big in a WaterSense labeled new home
  - **50,000** gallons of water - equal to 2,000 loads of laundry
  - More than \$600 per year on water, sewer, and energy bills
- **Outside:** water-efficient landscapes are adaptable to local watering restrictions
  - Easily maintained
  - Offer long term curb appeal



# Why Will Consumers Purchase WaterSense Labeled Homes?



- **Low maintenance is key**
- **Convenience, efficiency, & confidence**
  - Hot water will be delivered to users faster and use less energy
  - Landscaping will be healthy and sustainable, using less water and requiring less maintenance
  - WaterSense labeled products have been tested and certified for efficiency *and* performance
- ***Everyone* looks good!**



**WaterSense labeled new home by  
HiPointe Homes  
Colorado Springs, CO**

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# Questions/Contact

- WaterSense Information
  - Web site: [www.epa.gov/watersense](http://www.epa.gov/watersense)
- For questions:
  - Helpline: [watersense@epa.gov](mailto:watersense@epa.gov)
  - Toll-free: (866) WTR-SENS
- And online:
  - [www.facebook.com/epawatersense](https://www.facebook.com/epawatersense)
  - [www.twitter.com/epawatersense](https://www.twitter.com/epawatersense)

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