

# High-Efficiency Toilets

For a lifetime of savings.

**CRD** | Parks & Environmental Services



Step up with a  
High-Efficiency toilet.

## Make the Right Choice

### What Toilet Model is Best?

With all of the different makes and models available on the market, it can be hard to know which toilet to choose.

For information, resources and water saving tips visit: [www.crd.bc.ca/water](http://www.crd.bc.ca/water) which includes:

- links to independent toilet evaluation studies: Maximum Performance Testing of Popular Toilet Models (MAP) and Uniform North American Requirements (UNAR)
- links to the BC Building Code
- links to HET independent test results
- links to manufacturers of low flow toilets

[www.crd.bc.ca/about/what-we-do/building-permits-inspections](http://www.crd.bc.ca/about/what-we-do/building-permits-inspections)



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## Water Savings With High-Efficiency Toilets

If you still have older model toilets in your home, you are flushing your hard-earned dollars down the drain and wasting water, a precious resource. Replace your old toilet with a high-efficiency 4.8 litres per flush (lpf) model. On October 3, 2011, the Provincial Building Code was amended to require the installation of 4.8 lpf or less or dual flush toilets in all residential new construction and renovation projects involving toilet replacements in B.C. Older models can use as much as 13 to 20 litres of water per flush. A family of four can save up to 30,000 litres of water a year with a 4.8 lpf high efficiency toilet. That is a significant reduction in household water consumption.





## High-Efficiency Toilets

High-efficiency toilets (HETs) have a maximum flush volume of 4.8 litres. Dual-flush toilets are classified as HETs because the ratio of reduced flushes (up to 4.1 litres) to full flushes (up to 6 litres) results in an effective flush volume that is less than 4.8 litres.

## Stay Informed

Under the October 3, 2011 Provincial Building Code regulation, new residential buildings and renovation projects involving toilet replacements will have to include high-efficiency toilets with a 4.8 litre flush volume or less. Toilets that provide a dual flush cycle option of both 4.1 litres or less and 6 litres are compliant. Urinal installations remain unchanged, with the maximum flush volume 1.9 litres or less. The amendment will result in residents using water more efficiently, extending the life of existing water supplies and making water available for other uses.

These new requirements will apply to buildings used for Group C, residential occupancies only. Group C occupancies include houses, apartments, hotels, motels, lodging houses and dormitories. For more information, please contact your local building inspector. Find out more at: [www.housing.gov.bc.ca/building](http://www.housing.gov.bc.ca/building)

## Frequently Asked Questions

**What is a high-efficiency toilet (HET)?** HET, or low consumption toilets, use no more than 4.8 litres of water per flush cycle. Older toilets usually use between 13 and 20 litres per flush.

**How much water will I save?** 28% of household water usage is used by the toilet, so an HET can reduce household water consumption by 20%. For a family of four, this can mean saving up to 30,000 litres of water a year.

**Are HETs more difficult to install than older models?** No. Installing an HET is the same as installing older model toilets – no special tools or connections are required.

**Are HETs available in a variety of styles and colours?** Yes. HETs are now made in a wider range of styles and colours than older toilets.

**How well do they work?** Recent surveys have indicated high levels of satisfaction with the newest HETs.

**How can I tell if a toilet is an HET?** HETs look like older models, but may have a smaller tank.

Toilets must be marked to indicate they have been tested for low water consumption. All HETs must also be marked “LC,” “4.8LPF,” “LC/4.8 LPF,” or “x LPF” where x indicates tested value in litres per flush and is equal to or less than 4.8.

Look for these certification marks:



## Save Water & Help the Environment

Follow these simple tips and you can save water and help the environment.

- All drains lead to the ocean, so avoid using the toilet as a garbage can. Tissues and other items should be placed into appropriate disposal containers. Unnecessary flushing of the toilet even once a day can waste up to 1,000 litres of water a year.
- Check your toilets for leaks at least once a year. Dye tablets which help locate toilet leaks are available at no charge from the CRD.
- Avoid cleaning agents, such as cleaning pucks, that are placed into your toilet tank. They contain chlorine which will cause your rubber flapper to deteriorate and may cause your toilet to leak.
- Do not flush old medications down the toilet. Return them to a pharmacy that participates in the Medications Return Program.
- Recycle old toilets at local recycling facilities. Visit [myrecyclopedia.ca](http://myrecyclopedia.ca) for a complete listing.
- Old water guzzling toilets produce excessive water in Septic tanks which impedes the separation and settling of solids, resulting in untreated effluent entering the drainfield/aquifer.