



## City of Big Bear Lake Department of Water

41972 Garstin Dr. Big Bear Lake, CA 92315  
(909) 866-5050 X 202 - [www.BBLDWP.com](http://www.BBLDWP.com)



# How to Determine Low-Flow Fixtures

## Toilets

### Method #1

- Put down the seat and check for a flush volume stamp between the seat and tank. If the stamp reads **“1.6 gpf or 1.28 gpf,”** your toilet is already a current low-flow model.
- Take off the lid and check for a flush volume stamp or a date stamp inside the tank. The stamp may be on the walls of the tank or on the lid itself. Look for model numbers and brands, you may be able to find it online.



The date is generally the month and year it was produced and the number, if followed by L, represents liters of water used with each flush. Based on the year, the toilet uses the following gallons of water per flush (gpf):



- Before 1985: 5 to 7 gpf (gallons); 18.93 - 26.5 liters
- 1985-1994: 3.5 gpf; 13.25 liters
- After 1994: 1.6 gpf (excluding Lamosa)
- **Mandatory January 1, 2016: All toilets sold or installed in California must be 1.28 GPF or less**



### Method #2

If neither a flush volume stamp nor date stamp is present, you will need to measure the flush volume of your toilet tank. You will need a tape measure and a calculator.



- 1) Place tape measure straight down into the toilet tank and make note of the water level in inches.
- 2) Leave the tape measure in place and flush the toilet. Make note of the lowest water level, before the tank begins to refill.



- 3) Subtract the second water level reading from the first to get your height reading.

- 4) Next measure both length and width across the top of the tank.

- 5) Multiply height x length x width to get flush volume.

- 6) Divide by 231 to convert from cubic inches to gallons. If the flush volume measures less than 2.0 gallons, your toilet is a low-flow model and does not qualify for the DWP rebate program.

#### Example 1:

Initial water level reading = 8.5  
 Low water level reading = 2.0  
 Height = 8.5 – 2.0 = 6.5  
 Length = 18.0  
 Width = 7.0  
 Volume (cubic inches) = 6.5 x 18.0 x 7.0 = 819  
 Convert to gallons = 819 / 231 = 3.5  
 Toilet is a high volume model.

#### Example 2:

Initial water level reading = 6.5  
 Low water level reading = 3.0  
 Height = 6.5 – 3.0 = 3.5  
 Length = 16.0  
 Width = 6.0  
 Volume (cubic inches) = 3.5 x 16.0 x 6.0 = 336  
 Convert to gallons = 336 / 231 = 1.5 gallons  
 Toilet is a low-flow model.



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## Showerheads



**Your showerhead may be labeled.** Be sure to check around the rim, near where the showerhead attaches to the water supply pipe from the wall and along the front edge close to where the water actually comes out. The print may be very small so be sure to use a flashlight and magnifying glass if necessary. If labeled, it may read something like 2.5 GPM MAX/ 9.5 LPM MAX. GPM is gallons per minute, LPM is liters per minute. High flow showerheads deliver 2.6 GPM or more. A 2.5 GPM showerhead is the minimum federal standard and is allowed, however, the most recent California standard is 1.8 GPM. The BBLDWP provides free showerheads that will help you meet this requirement.

**If you are unsure of the water volume of your showerhead or cannot find the label,** follow the simple steps outlined below.

**To determine if you have a high- or low-flow showerhead, you need:**

- A bucket that holds more than one gallon (marked at one gallon)
- A clock with a second hand

**Step One:** Turn on the shower to the highest volume

**Step Two:** Hold the bucket under the water

**Step Three:** Time how many seconds it takes to fill the bucket to the one-gallon mark

**Analysis:** One gallon in under 20 seconds = high-flow showerhead. One gallon in more than 20 seconds = low-flow showerhead.



## Faucets

Similar to showerheads, faucet aerators are frequently labeled in small print somewhere along the rim of the aerator or faucet head. If it is not labeled, follow the directions below:

1. Turn the fixture on to its normal position
2. Place a container under the fixture and collect the water for 10 seconds
3. Measure the quantity of water in the container and [convert the measurement to gallons](#) (e.g., 0.25 gallons) Multiply the measured quantity of water by 6 to calculate the flow rate in gallons per minute (0.25 gal x 6 = 1.5 GPM). The BBLDWP provides free aerators to meet state requirements.

## **Mandatory for new fixtures in California**

- Residential lavatory (bathroom) faucets shall not exceed **1.2 gallons per minute** flow rate.
- Kitchen faucets shall not exceed **1.8 gallons per minute** flow rate and may have the capability to increase to 2.2 gallons per minute momentarily for filling pots and pans.
- Public lavatory (bathroom) faucets shall not exceed **0.5 gallon per minute** flow rate.
- Toilets shall not consume more than **1.28 GPF**.
- Floor mount urinals may use no more than 0.5 GPF and wall mount urinals are limited to 0.125 GPF.