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## **New Plumbing Fixture Standards in the BC Building Code**

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### **Overview**

Toilets and urinals represent 30% to 40% of domestic water use, both in households and in commercial and institutional buildings. Installation of more efficient models results in significant water savings. While the Building Code currently requires toilets with a 6-litre flush volume, high-efficiency toilets, which have a flush volume of 4.8 litres or less, are now available.

### **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. On average, high-efficiency toilets use at least 20% less water than the 6-litre models that are currently required in BC.

Effective October 4, 2010, HETs or dual-flush toilets will be required in new residential buildings (or when major renovations occur). The requirement for toilets with a maximum flush cycle of 6 litres in industrial, commercial and institutional buildings will remain unchanged.

### **High-Efficiency Urinals**

A high-efficiency urinal (HEU) is a fixture with a flush volume of 1.9 litres or less. HEUs use approximately one-third of the amount of water used to flush the average urinal. Based on average usage, a single HEU can save close to 18,000 litres of water per year.

Whenever urinals are installed, high-efficiency (1.9 litre) urinals will be required in all new buildings (or when major renovations occur).

### **Implementation**

The new standards will apply to building permit applications that are submitted on or after October 4, 2010. More information can be found at <http://www.housing.gov.bc.ca/building/consultation/het/index.htm>.