

# Water Saving Plumbing Fixtures - Facts at your fingertips

## What legislation in Alberta regulates plumbing fixtures?

In Alberta, the *Safety Codes Act* and the *Plumbing Code Regulation (A.R. 219/97)* regulate plumbing systems. The regulation states that no person may manufacture, install, sell or offer for sale any equipment related to plumbing systems for use in Alberta unless the equipment has been:

- tested and certified by a certification body accredited by the Standards Council of Canada, or
- inspected and approved by a certification body accredited by the Standards Council of Canada

Under the National Plumbing Code adopted by Alberta, every fixture must conform to Canada Standards Association (CSA) standard B45 .0 *General Requirements for Plumbing Fixtures* and every plumbing faucet to CSA standard B 125-98 *Plumbing Fittings*, as applicable.

In Alberta, the *Safety Codes Act* and regulations are administered by:

**Alberta Municipal Affairs,  
Safety Services,  
16<sup>th</sup> floor, Commerce Place  
Edmonton, Alberta T5J 4L4**

## As a homeowner, what does this mean to me?

This means that all plumbing fixtures must meet design and safety standards before they can be installed into your home's plumbing system. Fixtures must be approved to CSA Standard B45.0 and faucets to CSA B 125-98 before being offered for sale or installed in Alberta.

## How do I know if the fixture meets Alberta's requirements?

The fixture should have the CSA mark prominently stamped on it or on the package, or it must have an identifying mark from a testing agency recognized by the Standards Council of Canada. There are a number of certification organizations in Canada that can certify plumbing fixtures including:

- Canadian Standards Association (CSA)
- Intertek Testing Services NA, Inc. (ITS)
- National Sanitation Foundation (NSF)
- Quality Auditing Institute (QAI)
- International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials (IAPMO)

Retail stores are aware of these requirements and should not be selling any plumbing fixture that has not been tested and approved by one of these organizations.

## How can I be sure that fixtures are legal for use in Alberta?

Be wary of fixtures offered for sale over the Internet or door-to-door. Although a fixture might meet legal requirements in other jurisdictions, it may not necessarily be legal for use in Alberta.

Make sure the fixture or device is CSA approved or has been tested and certified by a recognized testing agency. If you are still unclear, take down the name of the fixture, any markings stamped onto the fixture and check with Alberta Municipal Affairs.

People selling or installing plumbing fixtures that are not approved may be subject to penalties under the *Safety Codes Act* and regulations.

## Who can I contract to install a water saving fixture in my system?

Any water saving fixture must be installed by a journeyman plumber or registered plumbing apprentice.

## What are the responsibilities of a plumber installing a water saving fixture in my home?

Plumbers must ensure any changes to the plumbing system of your home are in compliance with the Plumbing Code. This may require an inspection by a plumbing inspector.

A permit is required to install a new plumbing system or make changes to an existing system. Any fixtures installed to make your home more water efficient must meet the requirements for plumbing fixtures as described above. To find out where you can obtain a permit, go to [www.municipalaffairs.gov.ab.ca/ss\\_permit.htm](http://www.municipalaffairs.gov.ab.ca/ss_permit.htm)

Plumbers who ignore requirements may be subject to penalties under the *Safety Codes Act* and regulations.

## Are there any situations when installing a water saving fixture does not have to meet these requirements?

Water-efficient domestic appliances such as dishwashers and clothes washers are not considered “plumbing fixtures”. These domestic appliances must meet other standards for operational use, including safety standards and energy use standards.

If you have any questions regarding water saving plumbing fixtures, please contact:

**Alberta Municipal Affairs,  
Safety Services,  
16<sup>th</sup> floor, Commerce Place,  
Edmonton, Alberta T5J 4L4  
Telephone: 1-866-421-6929  
Email: [safety.services@gov.ab.ca](mailto:safety.services@gov.ab.ca)**