

Kitchen Faucets



Optional Water Efficiency Measure: May contribute to the 30 percent water efficiency requirement, depending on the chosen WaterSense® Approved Certification Method (WACM).



UNDERSTAND

- Federal efficiency standards require kitchen faucets to have a maximum flow rate of 2.2 gallons per minute (gpm) or less at 60 pounds per square inch (psi) of water pressure.
- WaterSense does not have a specification that applies to kitchen faucets. Instead, builders should look for models certified to the national standard for faucets, ASME A112.18.1/CSA B125.1 *Plumbing Supply Fittings*.
- Kitchen faucets are available in a wide variety of price points and styles. For greater efficiency or to meet local requirements, many models are available with maximum flow rates of 1.5 to 1.8 gpm.
- Some states have adopted kitchen faucet efficiency standards, which can help guide kitchen faucet selection.
- Some models of kitchen faucets can have a variety of features that are useful to homeowners, such as different spray functions and sensor or touch technology. See Faucet Types at right for more information.



BUILD

- **SPECIFY** and **INSTALL** kitchen faucets that have a flow rate between 1.5 gpm and 1.8 gpm to save water compared to the federal standard.
- **CHECK** state efficiency standards to ensure kitchen faucets meet local requirements. See Learn Local Requirements at right for more information.



VERIFY

- **OBTAIN** the makes and model numbers for all kitchen faucets in a home and look up the rated flow rate.
- **VERIFY** the maximum flow rate from each kitchen sink faucet. Use a small bucket or attach a flow-measuring bag to the faucet spout, turn on the water completely while starting a stopwatch and, after 10 seconds, turn off the water and check the volume of water collected.

**NOTE: Consult with the Home Certification Organization for specific verification protocols.*

Faucet Types

Spray Modes: Some faucets allow the user to switch between a traditional faucet flow and a spray stream to assist with rinsing.

Pull-Down and Pull-Out: Some faucets allow the flow direction to be manipulated by pulling the faucet spout away from the rest of the fixture using a flexible hose. Both “pull-down” and “pull-out” designs are common in the marketplace.

Sensor Technology: Some kitchen faucet products are equipped with touch or no-touch (sensor) technology that allows activation without having to pull the handle.

Learn Local Requirements

Some states and municipalities have set more stringent efficiency standards, requiring kitchen faucets to have a flow rate below the federal 2.2 gpm standard. However, in some cases, faucets are allowed to be equipped with a temporary “boost” mode to override the typical operating flow and assist with quicker pot filling or other volumetric needs. The faucet is required to revert back to its typical flow rate once it is turned off.

States that have adopted kitchen faucet efficiency standards can be found on the Appliance Standards Awareness Project web page at <https://appliance-standards.org/product/faucets>.

