



Plumbing Products Suggested Environmental Disclosure Questions

According to the Us Geological Society, about 410,000 million gallons per day of water was withdrawn for use in the United States during 2005. Health care facilities can be one of the largest users of water in a community and, by reducing water use, can achieve a return on Investment. Use these questions in your RFI or RFP to identify environmentally preferable products.

EPP Category	Environmental Disclosure Question	Preferred Answer (Yes/No)	Rationale
Faucets – Water efficient	<i>Does this faucet product use no more than 0.5 gallons per minute? (Y/N/NA) If yes, please provide independent test lab results.</i>	(Y/N/NA)	The U.S. National Standard and plumbing codes for public faucets is 0.5 gallons per minute. EPA Water Sense criteria is not as strict and allows faucets using 1.5 gpm max to 0.8 gpm minimum so has not been referenced here as the preferred criteria. LEED requires strategies that use 20% less water than the water use baseline calculated for the building.
Showerheads – Water efficient	<i>Does this showerhead product use no more than 1.8 gallons per minute of water? (Yes/No/NA) If yes, please provide test results.</i>	Yes/NA	Green Guide for Health Care recommends between 1.8 and 1.0 gpm for showerheads. EPA’s Water Sense program criteria are 2.0 gpm.
Toilets – Water Sense labeled	<i>Is this toilet product labeled as an EPA Water Sense product using no more than 1.28 gallons per flush? (Y/N/NA)</i>	Yes/NA	Water Sense certifies toilets that are High efficiency toilets (HETs) and flush at 20% below the 1.6 gal per flush U.S. maximum, equating to 1.28 gpf or less. Water Sense toilets must also meet performance criteria for solid waste removal as outlined by the Maximum Performance test (MaP). (For a list of MaP tested toilets see http://www.allianceforwaterefficiency.org/Maximum_Performance_(MaP)_Testing.aspx . HET category includes dual flush toilets that may use 1.1 gpf for liquids and 1.6 gpf for solids. 18 different toilet manufacturers are marketing over 95 models.
Urinals – Water efficient	<i>Is this urinal product labeled as an EPA Water Sense product using no more than 0.5 gallons per flush?</i>	Yes/NA	Using no more than 0.5 gpf meets the ASHRAE Standard 189.1 and EPA’s Water Sense Program criteria. This criterion is for a High Efficiency Urinals (HEU) which exceeds the standard for ultra low-flow toilets.

	(Y/N/NA)		
Water Closets – Water Efficient	<i>Is this water closet toilet labeled as an EPA Water Sense product using no more than 1.28 gallons per flush? (Y/N/NA)</i>	Yes/NA	Water Sense labels toilet that are High Efficiency toilets (HETs) and flush at 20% below the 1.6 gal per flush U.S. National standard, equating to 1.28 gpf or less. Water Sense toilets must also meet performance criteria for solid waste removal as outlined by the Maximum Performance test (MaP). (For a list of MaP tested toilets see http://www.allianceforwaterefficiency.org/Maximum_Performance_(MaP)_Testing.aspx . HET category includes dual flush toilets. 18 different toilet manufacturers are marketing over 95 models.
PVC-Free	<i>Is this product free of polyvinyl chloride (PVC) and chlorinated polyvinyl chloride (CPVC)? (Y/N)</i>	Yes	PVC production releases dioxins as a byproduct of production. Dioxin is a persistent bioaccumulative toxin (PBTs). Alternative materials for transporting potable water include copper, ductile iron, HDPE and cross-linked polyethylene (PEX). Alternatives for drain, waste, and vent applications include concrete, HDPE, vitrified clay, and cast and ductile iron.
Recycled content	<i>Does this product contain a percentage of postconsumer recycled content? (Y/N) if so, please state percentage.</i>	Yes/%	Some products are commonly made with recycled materials and the specific percentage may not be known and labeled, such as with steel and copper.
Lead– Free	<i>Is this product free of intentionally added lead? (Y/N)</i>	Yes	Lead is used as a stabilizer in PVC plumbing pipe (G. Vittoria, GreenBuild, 2003). In 1986, the Safe Drinking Water Act Section 1417 states that only lead-free pipe, solder, or flux may be used in installation and repair of public water systems or any plumbing, but “lead-free” is defined as having 0.2% lead in solder and flux and 8% in pipes, pipe fittings and well jumps. Small exposures to lead create hazards to workers during installs. Lead-free solder exists and there are options for installing without solder.
Low VOC’s	<i>Does this product meet the South Coast Air Quality Management District Rule 1168 for volatile organic compounds? (Y/N/NA) This applies to cements, adhesives and sealants. If yes, attached test results.</i>	Yes/NA	The SCAQMD maximum threshold for any adhesives shall not exceed 250 g/l with some specific exceptions, http://www.aqmd.gov/rules/siprules/sr1168.pdf . The VOC content of PVC, CPVC, and ABS pipe cements, adhesive primer for plastic shall be determined by Method 316A in the South Coast Air Quality Management District's (SCAQMD) "Laboratory Methods of Analysis for Enforcement Samples."
Prop 65 Chemicals	<i>Is this product free of chemicals listed under California’s Proposition 65, the Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement of Act of 1986,</i>	Yes	California’s Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986 referred to as Proposition 65 requires manufacturers who sell products in California to inform citizens about exposure to chemicals that may be released into the air or water and cause cancer, birth defects or other reproductive harm. Suppliers who sell outside California should also comply and identify the

	http://oehha.ca.gov/pr-op65.html ? (Yes/No)		use of any chemicals exceeding Prop 65 limits.
Chemicals of Concern	<i>Is this cement product free of Tetrahydrofuran? (Yes/No/NA)</i>	Yes/NA	The current Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) (US) exposure limits for tetrahydrofuran are two-hundred (200) parts of tetrahydrofuran per million parts of air (ppm) averaged over an eight (8) hour work shift and two-hundred fifty (250) ppm over a period of 15 minutes. Tetrahydrofuran has an ether-like odor. The vapor of tetrahydrofuran is highly irritating to the eyes of human subjects. Inhalation of tetrahydrofuran vapors may cause central nervous system depression. THF has an odor threshold in the range of 2 to 50 ppm so that it is readily detectable before its exposure limits are reached. Prefer products that do not contain this chemical.
Catalog Identification	<i>Do you identify water efficient products, such as EPA's Water Sense logo, in your online and printed catalogs? (Yes/No)</i>	Yes	
Reporting	<i>Can you provide reports on expenditures of environmentally preferable products meeting the requirements outlined above? (Yes/No)</i>	Yes	

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