



Code for Sustainable Homes, Wat 1: Indoor Water Use

A major change in the latest Technical Guide for the Code for Sustainable Homes could make part of the specification less demanding, or mean an additional credit.

A typical Code level 3 specification for internal water consuming items for all versions of the Code prior to May 2009 version is as follows:

- WC Dual Flush 4 litre full flush volume, 2.6 litre part flush volume
- Wash Hand Basin 4 litres/min (2.67 litres/min after Wat1 2/3 rule applied)
- Shower Flow rate 6 litres/min
- Bath 145 litre capacity to overflow
- Kitchen Taps 4 litres/min (2.67 litres/min after Wat1 2/3 rule applied)
- Washing machines and dishwashers – default values/not specified
- No rainwater harvesting or greywater recycling

Using the calculation methodology for Wat1 applicable for April 2007, October 2007, April 2008, and October 2008 versions of the Technical Guide, the above specification yields a calculated internal water consumption of **104.69 litres/person/day**.

It achieves the mandatory Wat1 requirement for Code levels 3 and 4 of consumption ≤ 105 litres/person/day, and the associated 3 credits.

The May 2009 version of the Technical Guide (and subsequent versions) uses the new methodology set out in The Water Efficiency Calculator for New Dwellings, the government's new national calculation methodology for assessing water efficiency in new dwellings. Applying this methodology to the above water use specification results in a calculated Code consumption of **88.6 litres/person/day**.

Thus Specifiers could choose to keep their previous Code level 3 water specification and still achieve the mandatory requirements as above, and potentially achieve 4 Code credits for reducing consumption to less than 90 litres/person/day.

Alternatively, the specification could be revised. For example changing the above specification to include kitchen and wash hand basin taps with flow rates of 6 litres/min AND the shower to 9 litres/min would result in a calculated May 2009 Code consumption of **104.2 litres/person/day**.

Contact NHBC to discuss other ways we may be able to help.

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