

Water Rating Index (WRI) Talking Points



Home Innovation
CERTIFIED Water Rating Index™

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WATER-EFFICIENT CONSTRUCTION VERIFIED VIA THIRD-PARTY

- A Water Rating Index (WRI) is a measure of a building's water efficiency – it assigns a performance score based on the expected water use as compared to a code-minimum building.
- A WRI Score of 100 represents the efficiency of typical construction. A lower WRI Score means the building is more efficient than that baseline.
- Water ratings offer flexibility – builders can evaluate various design and/or product choices to achieve their desired water rating score.
- To earn a water rating score, an independent, third-party professional must inspect and test the building.

WATER RATINGS ARE A TOOL FOR JURISDICTIONS AND UTILITIES FACING WATER SHORTAGES

- Using water ratings as a voluntary tool, jurisdictions can continue to meet housing production goals while ensuring new construction does not exceed annual water use thresholds.
- A jurisdiction or water utility can incentivize or require new buildings to achieve a water rating at or below a certain value.
- Water ratings are preferred to utility rate increases, restrictive prescriptive measures, and/or building moratoriums.

WRI IS EMBEDDED WITHIN A CREDIBLE GREEN STANDARD

- The WRI methodology is included as Appendix D within the ICC 700-2020 National Green Building Standard® (NGBS).
- The NGBS is an ANSI-approved standard, meaning it was developed through an open consensus process with input from stakeholders including government staff, code officials, product manufacturers, builders, architects, building owners, and the public.
- This open process ensures that the WRI methodology was developed with reasonable assumptions and sound water usage data.

WRI CALCULATES EXPECTED WATER USE

- A WRI score is a value between 0 and 100 that indicates a building's total indoor and outdoor water use compared to a baseline derived from the home's size and configuration.
- Each lower value on the 100-point scale represents approximately 1% water savings from the baseline.
- The WRI offers an easy-to-understand tool to communicate expected water use to potential homebuyers, tenants, and investors.
- Like HERS or ERI for energy performance, WRI facilitates straightforward comparison across similar properties.

WRI CERTIFICATION FOR NO OR LOW COST

- WRI certification is included for no additional certification fee when a project pursues both NGBS Green and WRI certifications.
- An affordable WRI certification fee is assessed when a project pursues WRI independently.
- WRI certification fees are flat-rate and designed to be cost-effective, making it an easy choice to add a water rating to any residential project.

HOME INNOVATION RESEARCH LABS

- Serves as the Secretariat to the Standard's development and maintenance process and certification body for the NGBS.
- Has a nearly 60-year history working with the residential building industry.
- Operates as an accredited, independent laboratory and third-party testing facility.
- Mission is to help clients improve the quality, durability, affordability, and environmental performance of homes and home building products.