

INFORMATION PAPER: Update on WaterSense Specification for Point-of-Use Reverse Osmosis Systems

2025 NSF Joint Committee on Drinking Water Treatment Units

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Benefits of WaterSense Label

- WaterSense distinguishes products that are at least 20% more water efficient and perform as well as or better than typical products.
- The WaterSense label offers several benefits, including:
 - Enhancing your brand's reputation as a leader in water efficiency and sustainability.
 - Increasing consumer trust by providing a reliable, third-party certification.
 - Expanding your market reach by appealing to environmentally conscious consumers and businesses.
 - Contributing to water conservation efforts that benefit communities and ecosystems.



Overview of Specification

- The WaterSense RO Systems Specification is available at: www.epa.gov/watersense/point-use-reverse-osmosis-systems
- Published November 2024
- Requires labeled systems to:
 - Achieve an efficiency rating of at least 30%
 - Achieve a 30% percent recovery when tested to the ASSE 1086 membrane life test
 - Reduce TDS by at least 75%
 - Verify additional reduction claims in accordance with NSF/ANSI 58
 - Adhere to packaging and documentation requirements

How to Label a System

How Do I Label My RO System?



- Steps to label an RO system:
 1. Become a partner: www.epa.gov/watersense/join-watersense
 2. Have a Licensed Certifying Body (LCB) test your system to the WaterSense specification
 3. LCB authorizes the manufacturer to use the WaterSense label on the product
 4. LCB submits product notification template (PNT) to WaterSense with information on certified products



Step 1: Become a Partner

- Manufacturers interested in labeling their RO systems need to become WaterSense Partners
- It is free to join and unlocks a variety of partner benefits!
- Partnership requirements
 - Commit to having at least one labeled product within 12 months
 - Follow the *WaterSense Program Mark Guidelines*
 - Include label on product packaging, spec sheets, product web pages
 - Submit annual data on WaterSense labeled product shipments
- How to join
 - Manufacturers can join by completing a [Manufacturers Partnership Agreement](#) online

Step 2: Have Your System Tested



- WaterSense requires all labeled systems to be tested and certified by an LCB
- RO System LCBs include: CSA Group, IAPMO R&T, NSF, and WQA
- LCB contact info is located on the WaterSense website:
www.epa.gov/watersense/accreditation-licensed-certifying-bodies

Step 3: LCB Authorizes Label Use



- The LCB will test the product and, if it meets the specification criteria, will authorize the manufacturer to use the WaterSense label on the product
- The LCB will maintain a certification listing of all products that meet the specification and report it to EPA
- Manufacturers must use the version of the label that includes “Certified by” and the LCB’s name

Step 4: Product Notification Template



- LCBs use the PNT to report certified products to WaterSense
- Information in the PNT populates the product registry on WaterSense website
- Includes product attributes that will be helpful to consumers
 - Product name and model
 - Efficiency rating
 - Contaminant removal claims

The form is titled "WaterSense® Labeled Point-of-Use Reverse Osmosis Systems Notification Template" and includes a version number of 1.0. It contains a list of fields for reporting product attributes, each with a "Displayed" or "Not Displayed" status and a right-pointing arrow. The fields are:

Field	Displayed	Not Displayed	Action
Efficiency Rating: Complete this field for tank and tankless systems. The efficiency rating is the product's efficiency rating verified through testing in accordance with the <i>WaterSense Specification for Point-of-Use Reverse Osmosis Systems</i> . Please report the number as a percent.	Displayed	Not Displayed	→
Arsenic (50 ppb): Indicate whether the product has been certified to reduce pentavalent arsenic at 50 parts per billion (ppb) per the NSF/ANSI 58 requirements.	Displayed	Not Displayed	→
Arsenic (50 ppb) Percent Reduction: Enter the product's reduction percent for pentavalent arsenic (50 ppb), as verified through testing according to NSF/ANSI 58.	Displayed	Displayed	→
Arsenic (300 ppb): Indicate whether the product has been certified to reduce pentavalent arsenic at 300 ppb per the NSF/ANSI 58 requirements.	Displayed	Not Displayed	→
Arsenic (300 ppb) Percent Reduction: Enter the product's reduction percent for pentavalent arsenic (300 ppb), as verified through testing according to NSF/ANSI 58.	Displayed	Displayed	→
Chromium (Hexavalent): Indicate whether the product has been certified to reduce chromium (hexavalent) per the NSF/ANSI 58 requirements.	Displayed	Not Displayed	→
Chromium (Hexavalent) Percent Reduction: Enter the product's reduction percent for chromium (hexavalent), as verified through testing according to NSF/ANSI 58.	Displayed	Displayed	→
Chromium (Trivalent): Indicate whether the product has been certified to reduce chromium (trivalent) per the NSF/ANSI 58 requirements.	Displayed	Not Displayed	→
Chromium (Trivalent) Percent Reduction: Enter the product's reduction percent for chromium (trivalent), as verified through testing according to NSF/ANSI 58.	Displayed	Displayed	→
Lead: Indicate whether the product has been certified to reduce lead per the NSF/ANSI 58 requirements.	Displayed	Not Displayed	→
Lead Percent Reduction: Enter the product's reduction percent for lead, as verified through testing according to NSF/ANSI 58.	Displayed	Displayed	→
Nitrate/Nitrite: Indicate whether the product has been certified to reduce nitrate/nitrite per the NSF/ANSI 58 requirements.	Displayed	Not Displayed	→
Nitrate/Nitrite Percent Reduction: Enter the product's reduction percent for nitrate/nitrite, as verified through testing according to NSF/ANSI 58.	Displayed	Displayed	→
Total PFAS: Indicate whether the product has been certified to reduce total per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) per the NSF/ANSI 58 requirements.	Displayed	Not Displayed	→
Total PFAS Percent Reduction: Enter the product's reduction percent for total PFAS, as verified through testing according to NSF/ANSI 58.	Displayed	Displayed	→

At the bottom, there are navigation tabs: "< > Instructions Product Data +".

Annual Reporting and Partner Awards

Annual Reporting



Why Report?

- Reporting is a requirement of WaterSense partnership
- Helps EPA
 - Estimate water and energy savings and GHG reductions associated with WaterSense labeled products
 - Understand how the specification has helped transform marketplace
- Allows manufacturers to be eligible for awards

What Is Requested?

- Shipment data of WaterSense labeled and non-labeled models of RO systems
- Activities and feedback



RO system manufacturers will be asked to begin reporting in early 2026!

Partner of the Year Awards



WaterSense partners are eligible for annual recognition from EPA

Manufacturer evaluation criteria typically includes:

- Increasing visibility of labeled products
- Public and corporate relations activities
- Strategic or research collaboration
- Retailer and distributor outreach/training
- WaterSense labeled product models



Other WaterSense Resources

Other WaterSense Resources



WaterSense Guide to Selecting Water Treatment Systems

- EPA published a guide on the WaterSense website explaining different water treatment technologies available to consumers
- The guide includes information on each technology, including potential water use, to enable consumers to select the least water-intensive technology that can meet their treatment needs
- In cases where RO is the most appropriate treatment option, the guide encourages consumers to select a WaterSense labeled RO system that is certified to reduce contaminant(s) of concern

WaterSense® Guide to Selecting Water Treatment Systems



November 2024



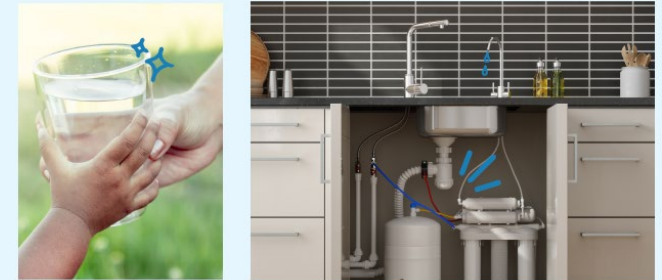
www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2024-11/ws-products-home-water-treatment-guide_508.pdf

Other WaterSense Resources



Treating Water With Less Waste

- EPA also published an RO systems mini report to help potential buyers make an informed RO system purchase
- The mini report covers:
 - How RO systems work
 - Why WaterSense labeled systems are different
 - How to identify contaminant reduction claims, water efficiency, and daily production rate
 - RO system use and maintenance tips



Treating Water With Less Waste

Reverse Osmosis Systems



www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2024-11/ws-products-ro-systems-mini-report.pdf

Questions?



Contact Us



General E-mail: watersense@epa.gov

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