

NOTICE OF AMENDMENT
City of Guelph Blue Built Home
Water Efficiency Standards and Rebate Program

The Blue Built Home (BBH) Water Efficiency Standards and Rebate Program is a certification and rebate program available for new homes that are designed and constructed to achieve a heightened level of water efficiency than the base construction requirements of the Ontario Building Code (OBC). The program includes three water efficiency standards that employ a tiered level system—Bronze, Silver, Gold—indicating increasing household water efficiency.

In January 2013 the City of Guelph Water Services Department initiated a review of the BBH Program as part of its continuous improvement objectives, and to address pending changes to home water efficiency requirements mandated through the 2012 OBC (coming into effect January 1, 2014). Core themes of the review process included:

- Affordability of Blue Built Homes to both the builder and home buyer;
- Program awareness and brand recognition;
- Program administration processes; and
- Water efficiency technologies and requirements per BBH certification level.

These topics were summarized in an [Interim Report](#) outlining observations and challenges the Program had encountered to date, and providing proposed revisions to the program. This report, along with a stakeholder survey seeking feedback on the proposed revisions, was shared with the local building community via direct email correspondence and through an article in the Guelph and District Home Builders Association newsletter. Based on the findings of this survey, further consultation took place with our Building Services department and building partners throughout the Fall of 2013.

2014 Blue Built Home Program Summary of Revisions

As a result of the program review and consultation process, the following revisions have been incorporated into the BBH Program:

- Showerheads have been removed from all certification levels as the Ontario Building Code now requests showerhead flow rates be ≤ 7.6 litres per minute. Reducing the flow rate requirement for the BBH standard to below 7.6 litres per minute would interfere with customer satisfaction.
- Approved toilet models have changed from 4.8-litre to ≤ 4.0 -litre WaterSense® certified fixtures in order to maintain greater water efficiency than the OBC while ensuring the high fixture performance that homeowners expect.
- The requirement for a hot water delivery system has been removed from the Bronze certification level, and is only required for the Silver and Gold certification levels. This promotes the financial accessibility of the Bronze certification level to all homeowners.
- The Gold certification level has been revised to provide the option of installing either a greywater reuse system or a rainwater harvesting system.

These revisions are **effective January 1, 2014** with further information to be provided on the Blue Built Home website at that time. For reference, the following schematic provides a summary of the revised water efficiency construction requirements by program level.

2014 Blue Built Home Program Water Efficiency Standard Overview

	REBATE	BRONZE	SILVER	GOLD
WaterSense® Toilet (≤ 4.0 Litres)	\$20 each	•	•	•
ENERGY STAR® qualified Washing Machine	\$100	•	•	•
Waterless Floor Drain Trap	\$60	•	•	•
Hot Water Recirculation System	\$200		•	•
Greywater Reuse System (GWR)*	\$1,000			•
Rainwater Harvesting System (RWH)*	\$2,000			•

** Either a Greywater Reuse System or a Rainwater Harvesting System must be installed for Gold certification. If both systems are installed within a home, rebates will only be provided for the Rainwater Harvesting System.*

Additional changes include revisions to the permit application process to reduce builder documentation submission requirements and to increase process efficiency. With this in mind, home builders intending to build a BBH must continue to advise which BBH level they are building to at the time of permit application, however, there is no longer a requirement to include the fixture make/model information and supporting documentation with the BBH Application Form. Instead, product specification documents must be provided for reference at the time of final plumbing inspection.

The City of Guelph would like to thank local homebuilders for their participation and input provided during the program review period. Local homebuilders and supporting trades are encouraged to contact Blue Built Home staff with any questions they may have regarding changes to the standards and associated requirements. Furthermore, to support the transition of program standards, the City extends the offer to provide information sessions on standard revisions to respective home builder sales teams and other interested parties, and will provide new program marketing materials upon request. Should these opportunities be of interest, I would ask that you please contact Julie Anne Lamberts, Water Conservation Program Coordinator, at 519-822-1260 x2405 or julianne.lamberts@guelph.ca to arrange a meeting at your convenience.

Kind regards,

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