

Home Built to EPA's WaterSense® New Home Specifications

Situation



Doebley & Dad Construction Company built this home in Egg Harbor Township using EPA WaterSense® new home specifications

In 2009, EPA WaterSense® announced the criteria for water-efficient new homes. New Jersey American Water introduced New Jersey Water Savers to a builder who was interested in following the guidelines to build a home to the specifications.

Water Sense® is a voluntary, national program sponsored by the EPA with a goal of preserving water for future generations by helping transform the market for water-efficient products and services. The WaterSense® label is a simple way for consumers to identify products that have been independently certified to meet EPA's criteria for efficiency and performance. For the past three years, EPA has been developing a specification for water-efficient single-family new homes to encourage the construction of houses that use at least 20 percent less water than a traditional new home.

Action

In the fall of 2009, New Jersey Water Savers partnered with Doebley and Dad Construction Company to create a WaterSense® certifiable house which adheres to the EPA New Home Specifications. The house features all WaterSense® or water efficient plumbing fixtures and appliances, a smart irrigation system and a limited lawn area (i.e., only 40% turfgrass with the remainder 60% being low water using/native plant gardens. This home is the focus of the next two water conservation videos which are being created in partnership with New Jersey American Water Company — Saving Water is Saving Money—Outside the Home! and Saving Water is Saving Money—Inside the Home!

Impact

In the next few months this home will be inspected by Masco Home Services, Inc., an independent consultant. The inspection will evaluate the home energy-efficiency and certify this home as the first EPA's WaterSense® home built to specification in the nation. This home will serve as a water-efficient model home to the building industry and to other homeowners. WaterSense® labeled products are available throughout New Jersey; products such as toilets, showerheads, bathroom faucets, high-efficiency washers for clothes and dishes are competitively priced.



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New Jersey Water Savers Partnership

New Jersey Water Savers is a partnership between the Rutgers Cooperative Extension Water Resources Program, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, and the United States Environmental Protection Agency. This partnership was created to provide leadership to promote water conservation throughout New Jersey. For more information on our partnership efforts, visit us at www.water.rutgers.edu.

