



...a dialogue for California's water conservation community

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Dear Beth,

High Efficiency Urinals

For nearly 15 years, the "law of the land" (EPA Act 92, that is) for urinals has been a maximum flush volume of one gallon (3.8 liters). Yet, for about the same period of time, products with much superior water efficiency have existed in our North American marketplace. Furthermore, while in most people's minds, the urinal fixture is viewed as only for commercial and other public restroom installations, urinals for residential applications have been available for an equal period of time. (In fact, a recent front page article in the Wall Street Journal illustrated examples of how urinals are being installed in U.S. homes! [1])

While the national codes and standards specify a one gallon per flush (gpf) maximum flush volume, is that much water really required in today's new construction? Apparently not! Half-gallon flushing urinals have existed for at least 15 years, non-water urinals have been available here for just as long, and today we are seeing the successful introduction of urinals flushing with one pint of water (1/8th of a gallon!).

In 2005, the California Urban Water Conservation Council proposed a new classification for these more water-efficient urinals: High-Efficiency Urinals (HEUs). Today, products are available in four different HEU categories:

HEU Category	No. of Manufacturers/Brands	No. of HEU Models
Flushing Urinals		
0.50 - gpf (half-gallon)	3	7
0.125 - gpf (one pint)	2	6
0.10 - gpf (3/4 pint)	1	1
Non-Water Urinals	9	27
ALL HEUs	12 different	41

For a full listing of all 41 models, together with the website URLs for each of the manufacturers, download this document: www.cuwcc.org/urinal_fixtures/HEU_07-06-05.pdf

[1] Wall Street Journal, 2003. "For Stand-Up Guys, No Home is Complete Without One of These - Urinals Make Slow Migration From Bar to Master Bath", page A1, November 3.

Featured Products - 1-Pint Flushing Urinals

The Zurn 1-pint flushing urinal (Z5798) is currently undergoing informal trials at various universities throughout the U.S. Feedback on flush performance and customer satisfaction has been very good. It is equipped with a conventional infrared motion sensor that activates the flush.

Marty LaPorte, Manager of Water Resources and Environmental Quality, Stanford University Utilities Department states: "*Our*

plumbers and users liked the demo urinal; it works well. So I decided they are a viable technology for us. We started our Phase 1 of the retrofits in late March 2007. Phase 1 includes retrofitting 63 old (>1gpf) urinals in bathrooms that require no or minimum carpentry, additional work (due to tile, different footprints, etc.). We have installed 32 urinals so far and have had problems with one only - infrared sensor was triggered by distant movement and kept flushing. Zurn had initially provided us with 4 extra valves, so we changed the valve and that fixed the problem. I checked out a few of the installations this morning and all look good. I had put up "comment" sheets for users in the bathrooms, vast majority of comments are positive.

Zurn reps have been super to work with: nice people, communicative, very responsive, and available by phone and email. I wish all our vendors were as customer oriented!"



Figure 1. Zurn 1-pint flushing urinal



The Caroma 1-pint "Cube" features a very unique sensor system that is designed to only initiate a flush when necessary (that is, minimize "false flushes"). Instead of employing an infrared system that senses body movement, the Caroma urinal senses movement of water in the urinal trapway and initiates the flush accordingly.

Figure 2. Caroma SmartFlush Cube 1-pint flushing urinal

Featured Products - Non-Water (Waterless) Urinals

The Kohler Steward non-water urinals were introduced about one year ago and function without employing a replaceable cartridge. One of the Steward fixture models (K-4918) features a large wall-print and is thus suited to urinal replacement in an existing building. The other model (K-4917) is more suited to new construction.



Figure 3. Kohler K-4918 Non-Water Urinal



Figure 4. Kohler K-4917 Non-Water Urinal

The Zurn Sahara non-water urinal (Z5795), introduced about one and a half years ago, also functions without a replaceable cartridge.



Figure 5. Zurn Sahara Z5795 Non-Water Urinal

Featured Products - Urinals for Residential Applications

When one thinks of urinals suited aesthetically to residential installations, two models come to mind, the American Standard Innsbrook (0.5-gallons per flush) and the Mister Miser (3/4-pint per flush). The Innsbrook (6520) features an sensor integral to the fixture that actuates the flush upon detecting body movement.



Figure 6. American Standard Innsbrook 0.5-gallon flushing urinal

The Mister Miser, on the other hand, is smaller and employs a mechanical action to activate the flush. Flushing takes place when the cover is closed after use.



Figure 7. Mister Miser Residential Urinal (open)



Figure 8. Mister Miser Residential Urinal (closed)

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