



Lead Free plumbing products

Frequently asked questions

Do spare parts for plumbing products need to meet the lead free requirements?

Yes, if the product type of the spare part is identified as a product on the WaterMark Schedule of Products as requiring lead free certification. There is a transition period from 1 May 2023 to 1 May 2026 for identified products to be re-certified to meet the lead free requirements. From 1 May 2026 all identified products, including those that are spare part products, will need to meet the lead free requirements.

Would prior NSF/ANSI/CAN 372 certification from other jurisdictions be accepted for Lead Free WaterMark certification?

WaterMark Conformity Assessment Bodies are responsible for assessing plumbing products and issuing WaterMark certification. It is the decision of the WaterMark Conformity Assessment Body to accept, consider or reject prior NSF/ANSI/CAN 372 certification during the Lead Free WaterMark certification evaluation of a product to be sold in the Australian market.

Will plumbing products that contain copper alloy and are intended for use in contact with drinking water, but have not been certified to meet the lead free requirements, be authorised for use in a plumbing and drainage installation after 1 May 2023?

Yes. There is a transition period from 1 May 2023 to 1 May 2026 and such products will be authorised for use in contact with drinking water as long as WaterMark certification is current. From 1 May 2026 such products will not be authorised for use in contact with drinking water regardless of whether WaterMark certification is current. Refer clause 4.3 of the [ABCB Notice of Direction on certification transition arrangements for lead free plumbing products](#).

How will I know if a plumbing product is Lead Free WaterMark certified?

The product will be marked with the Lead Free WaterMark certification trademark and its associated packaging may also bear the Lead Free WaterMark certification trademark.

How will I know if a plumbing product requires Lead Free WaterMark certification?

Products requiring Lead Free WaterMark certification are identified on the [WaterMark Schedule of Products](#). Products that do not require WaterMark certification, but for which the Lead Free requirements of the National Construction Code 2022 Volume Three – the Plumbing Code of Australia do apply, are identified by an asterisk on the [WaterMark Schedule of Excluded Products](#).

Can a WaterMark Conformity Assessment Body use its own lead free compliance notification for a plumbing product?

Yes, this is acceptable practice if the WaterMark Conformity Assessment Body is not issuing Lead Free WaterMark certification for the product.

What does the term 'lead free' mean?

In relation to a plumbing product, the term 'lead free' means where a plumbing product in contact with drinking water has a weighted average lead content of not more than 0.25%. The term is defined in the National Construction Code 2022 Volume Three – the Plumbing Code of Australia.

Do I have to change the plumbing in my home?

No, the lead free requirements do not require that you change existing plumbing products in your home. However, from 1 May 2026, if you are undertaking repairs or new installations of plumbing products in contact with drinking water, they must be in compliance with the lead free requirements where they are required to do so.

Who do the lead free requirements apply to?

The lead free requirements apply to manufacturers, importers, wholesalers, distributors, re-sellers and retailers of plumbing products and materials. They also apply to licensed installers or repairers of plumbing products.

Do the lead free requirements apply to all plumbing products?

No, the lead requirements do not apply to all plumbing products. Some products that are not in constant contact with drinking water, and have a low likelihood of being used for conveying drinking water intended for consumption, are exempt.

These include products such as shower heads, shower mixer taps, washing machines, dishwashers, commercial boilers (associated with HVAC systems), emergency deluge showers and eyewash equipment.

Copper alloy products used in fire-fighting equipment, irrigation systems and recycled water systems are also exempt from the lead requirement because they are not in contact with drinking water.

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In relation to the ABCB Notice of Direction on acceptable copper alloys for the manufacture of lead free plumbing products can a plumbing product supplier attain Lead Free WaterMark certification by presenting a product that complies with the requirements of clause 3.0 or clause 5.0?

WaterMark certification can be attained through either clause 3.0 (the 'prescriptive' pathway), where suitable copper alloys are able to be formulated according to the standards listed, or clause 5.0 (an alternative 'performance' pathway), where suitable copper alloys are not able to be formulated according to the standards listed in direction 3.0. This enables future proofing of the provisions and encourages ongoing innovation, including to acknowledge current/future 'proprietary' materials. It is the responsibility of the WaterMark Conformity Assessment Body to determine how products and materials will be evaluated.