

# CRITICAL DRAINLINE RESEARCH NEEDS YOUR HELP!



Plumbing  
Efficiency  
Research  
Coalition

An important study on Building Drainline Blockages is just short of funding it needs to move forward.

**Here is the issue:** Water-efficient fixtures lead to reduced water consumption, and can result in lower drainline and sewer line water flows. This provokes some important questions: Do these reduced flows lead, in turn, to stoppages of waste in building drains? What is the 'tipping point' at which flows can be reduced no further without causing solids

to clog the drainline? Does the installation of certain high-efficiency plumbing fixtures contribute to stoppages? If so, are remedies available that can mitigate or prevent drainline stoppages?

So far, much of the information on this subject is largely anecdotal. However, field failures recently reported in Australia indicate that the emphasis upon aggressive water efficiency practices, fixtures and equipment may have contributed to systemic waste transport-related failures in building drains and sewer lines, costing millions of dollars to repair.

Will the Australian experiences be repeated in North America? We hope not. Yet, while the drain systems and drought conditions in North America are not necessarily the same as Australia, it is important that the Aussie experiences be considered as a 'wake-up call' to North America.

**What is the Solution?** The Plumbing Efficiency Research Coalition (PERC) is undertaking a study that will begin to address those questions noted above by scientifically analyzing the issue of blockages and further evaluating the use of higher volume toilet discharges at intermittent intervals as a way to effectively clear drainlines.

**This is a critical issue that must be resolved**, the sooner the better! Lack of answers is currently discouraging many water utilities from running commercial water efficiency programs. It is further stalling the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's plans to develop a WaterSense Label specification for commercial high-efficiency toilets (HETs).

The good news is that this study will be underway by January, 2012. Due to a generous offer by American Standard Brands to allow the use of its test apparatus, and also due to the generous contributions of others, the study now requires only an additional \$50,000.00 in funding to get this important research started. Please consider supporting this effort in whatever way you can. All contributors will be recognized in the Study's Final report. No amount is too small!

Please contact Mary Ann Dickinson ([maryann@a4we.org](mailto:maryann@a4we.org)) at the Alliance for Water Efficiency for further information on contributing funding. Contributions will be tax deductible.

Learn more about PERC and the study here: [www.plumbingefficiencyresearchcoalition.org](http://www.plumbingefficiencyresearchcoalition.org).

**Coalition Partners:** *Alliance for Water Efficiency, American Society of Plumbing Engineers, International Code Council, International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials, Plumbing-Heating-Cooling Contractors National Association, and Plumbing Manufacturers International*

