

UNREPAIRED LEAKS CAN BE COSTLY!

Does your toilet have a leak?

If your toilet runs for a long time or suffers from an occasional “phantom” flush, you may have a leak. More than 20 percent of gravity-flush toilets leak. Follow these tips to find and stop toilet leaks. Leaks impact both the water and sewer bill and should be addressed as soon as identified. If you are not sure about your ability to perform any of these steps, please contact a licensed plumber.

Periodic Refills without Flushing

“Ghost” or “phantom” flushing is usually the result of a worn rubber flapper that is allowing water to seep from the tank into the bowl and down the sewer. An improperly adjusted flapper chain also could cause the problem.

Conduct a simple dye test to see if water is seeping from the tank. Or, use food coloring or a powdered drink mix to noticeably color the water in the toilet tank.

1. Place the dye tablets or coloring agent in the toilet tank.
2. The tank water will change color, while the toilet bowl water should be clear.
3. Wait 10 minutes.
4. Check to see if any coloration appears in the bowl.
If so, then you have a leaking flapper valve.

Note: If you normally use products that color the water in the tank or bowl such as a sanitizer, remove them and flush the toilet until the water in the bowl and tank are clear before you begin the dye test.

Continuous Trickling

A continuous trickling sound usually means water is running over the top of the overflow tube inside the tank. Follow these steps to help resolve the issue.

Remove the toilet tank lid and conduct a visual inspection. Flush the toilet and observe the process. Look for obvious problems.

- Check to see if the refill water level is set properly and does not rise over the top of the overflow tube.
- To lower the water level, adjust the float lower.
- On a bulb-on-arm style toilet, adjust the screw near where the float arm attaches to the float valve.
- On newer valve and float units, adjust the float by moving the float downward on the vertical rod.

If the toilet continues to run, even with the float adjusted, you should replace the refill valve with a new unit from your local hardware store.

Water Loss In Gallons

Loss per Day	120	360	693	1,200	1,920	3,096	4,296	6,640	6,984	8,424	9,888	11,324	12,720	14,652
Loss per Month	3,600	10,800	20,790	36,000	57,600	92,880	128,880	199,200	209,520	252,720	296,640	339,720	381,600	448,560
Size of Leak	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•



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