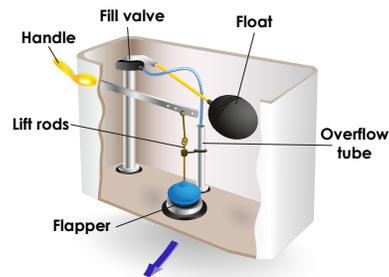


HOW TO SPOT AND STOP TOILET LEAKS



Water loss from leaking toilets isn't always noticeable. There are two main causes of toilet water loss: a faulty flapper or the float/water level needs adjustment.



How to Spot:

Faulty Flapper

The flapper valve should create a water-tight seal to keep water in the tank for the next flush. When the flapper is old or positioned incorrectly, water continuously leaks into the bowl, and the toilet continues to fill. This could waste up to 4,000 gallons of water per day.

Float/Water Level Needs Adjustment

When you flush your toilet, water empties from the tank into the bowl. The float in your tank falls as water exits the tank, activating the refill valve. As water begins to refill the tank, the float rises, and stops the refill at the appropriate time (preventing your bathroom from flooding). The overflow tube captures any extra water in the event that the refill valve isn't triggered to stop. If the float needs to be adjusted, water will flow into the overflow tube. The water level in the tank should always be about an inch from the top of the overflow tube.

How to Stop:

Adjust the chain on your flapper or replace the entire flapper. Flappers are inexpensive and can be purchased at any home improvement store. Installation instructions are typically included on the packaging.

If your toilet has a float arm, use the adjustment screw on top of the fill valve to raise or lower the float arm. Older float arms may not have an adjustment screw and should probably be replaced with a newer fill valve. To adjust the water level on toilets with float cylinders, squeeze the float clip to release the float cylinder and slide up or down to adjust the water level in the toilet tank.

Extra Tips on Checking for Water Loss

LISTEN:

If your toilet continues to make noise after the tank refills, your flapper may be letting water into the tank or water may be overflowing into the overflow tube.

LOOK:

If you see 'ripples' in the bowl (water moving in the bowl when the toilet isn't in use) it's likely that the flapper is not doing its job.

TEST:

Come by ECCV for toilet dye tabs or use dark colored food coloring that you already have in your home. Follow these steps to see if your toilet is experiencing water loss:

- Remove the lid from the tank of the toilet and drop the tabs or food coloring into the tank.
- Close the tank lid and wait 10-15 minutes. Make sure the toilet isn't flushed during this time.

- Check the bowl for color. If there is color in the bowl, you need to replace your flapper. The color indicates that the water that should be held in reserve in your toilet tank is leaking into the bowl. Replacing a flapper is easy and can be done in minutes.