

Looking for more ways to save water indoors?

- Replace your toilet with a high-efficiency toilet that uses only 1.28 gallons per flush or less. Older toilets can use 3 to 5 gallons per flush.
- Don't use your toilet as a wastebasket. Dead bugs, used facial tissue and wipes should go in the trashcan, not the toilet.
- Turn off the faucet while you brush your teeth, shave or wash your face and you can save an average of 5 gallons.
- Shorten your shower time. Typical showers use about 5 gallons per minute.
- Install a high-efficiency showerhead that uses no more than 1.5 gallons of water per minute.
- Run the dishwasher and washing machine only when it's fully loaded. Most dishwashers use between 12-15 gallons of water, full or empty. When loading the dishwasher, scrape food off dishes and pots instead of rinsing them.

Email conservation@tvwd.org or call (503) 848-3000 for FREE toilet leak test dye tabs and other water conservation tips that can help you save water and money.

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- If you wash dishes by hand, fill the sink or a pan with soapy water instead of letting the faucet run while soaping dishes. Don't let the faucet run while rinsing off dishes. Rinse dishes in a filled sink or pan of water.
- Install a high efficiency faucet aerator on your kitchen faucet that uses no more than 1.5 gallons of water per minute.
- Instead of letting the water run until the water is cold enough to drink, keep a container of drinking water in the refrigerator.



For additional tips on how to save water and money, visit tvwd.org and click on the **Conservation and Rebates** tab or visit the Regional Water Providers Consortium's website at ConserveH2O.org and click on **Watch Our How-To Videos**.

Tualatin Valley Water District



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Even You Can Fix A Leaky Toilet



Simple Tips
To Save Water
And Money

Even You Can Fix A Leaky Toilet

Toilet leaks can be silent but costly, wasting hundreds of gallons of water in a very short time. Be a leak seeker. Here is a short guide to help you determine what might be causing your toilet to leak, as well as a few tips on how to fix them.

Once a year, test your toilet for leaks:

1. Remove the tank cover carefully.
2. Drop leak test dye tablets or 5-6 drops of food coloring into the tank.
3. Wait several minutes.

If the dye leaks into the bowl, there's a leak.

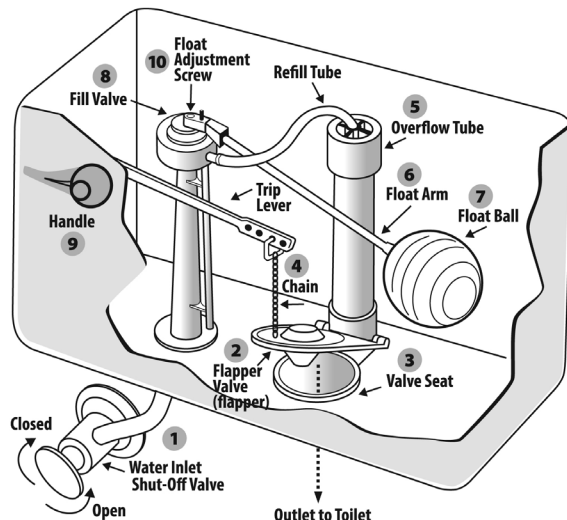
Before attempting to fix toilet leaks:

- Turn off the water at the toilet's base (1).
- Flush until your toilet tank is empty.
- Soak up excess water in the tank with a sponge, then check the following parts:

Flapper or Flush Valve

Your Flapper or Flush Valve (2) may not be seating properly on the Valve Seat (3), or it may need replacement. This is typically the cause of leaking toilets. Over time, the valve's rubber material deteriorates because it is constantly underwater. If you gently rub the valve and get streaks on your fingers, the valve should be replaced.

To Fix: Check the Valve Seat (3) for corrosion and clean it if necessary. Turn the water inlet (1) back on and try flushing. If the Flush Valve (2) still won't seat properly, check the Guide Wire (4). It may be misaligned or tangled. Adjust the Guide Wire to make sure the Valve (2) falls easily into place.



If the Flapper Valve (2) seems worn or in poor condition, try replacing it with the appropriate brand (take the old part to the store with you). You should be able to find replacements in most home improvement stores. Simple do-it-yourself installation instructions should be on the packaging.

Overflow Tube

If the water level in the tank is too high, it may spill into the Overflow Tube (5) continually, creating an expensive leak that is difficult to hear.

To Fix: Adjust or bend the Float Arm (6) downward gently until the water fills to the proper level after you flush. Be sure to check that the Float Arm is securely screwed in so that the Arm won't rotate.

If the water level is too low, you may not get an efficient flush. Carefully adjust or bend the Float Arm (6) upward to increase the water level in the tank. It may be that you'll need to replace the Float Ball (7) if it has filled with water or replace the Float Ball Shut Off Valve (8).

Guide Wire

If you have to jiggle the handle to keep the toilet from leaking, it may be a misaligned Flush Valve (2) or loose handle (9).

To Fix: Clean and adjust the Guide Wire (4) and/or tighten the nut that holds the toilet handle (9) to the tank. Turn the water inlet (1) back on and try flushing. If that doesn't work, the handle may need to be replaced.



Shut-Off Valve

If water flow does not stop after the tank fills, you may have a broken Shut-Off Valve in the Ballcock Assembly (10.) Water will continuously spill into the Overflow Tube (5).

To Fix: Know your limitations. Unless you have some basic plumbing skills, call a professional. At least you have identified and isolated the problem.

If your leaky toilet can't be fixed, replace it with one that uses 1.28 gallons per flush or less. New high-efficiency toilets (HETs) are designed to flush efficiently with very little water.

Do not take on toilet repairs unless you feel confident in your ability to make these repairs successfully.