

Install low-flow

Since the mid-1990s, new toilets have been redesigned to conserve water, using 1.6 gallons of water per flush. Older models use 3 gallons or more per flush. If your toilet is not a newer water-saving fixture, consider purchasing one.



What is a flapper?

A flapper is a rubber mechanism in your toilet tank that is the moving part of the flush valve, sealing water into the tank and allowing water to exit the tank when you flush.

Flappers deteriorate over time as a result of in-tank cleaning products and chemicals used for disinfection of the water supply. That's why they need to be checked every year to make sure they're fitting tightly over the flush tube. Otherwise, you could end up with a leak that wastes water and could seriously increase your water bill.

Depending on the extent of the leak, a warped or poorly fitting flapper can waste up to 200 gallons per day and may cost hundreds of dollars a year!

Charlotte County Toilet Rebate Program

If you're a residential, commercial or multi-family water customer of Charlotte County Utilities, you may be eligible for a rebate of up to \$100 when you replace an older, high-flow toilet (3.5 gallons or more per flush) with a new, low-flow toilet (1.6 gallons or less per flush).

Eligible participants must submit a rebate application and receive a reservation number prior to toilet replacement and must follow all program guidelines. Rebates are limited and are available on a first-come, first-served basis, so apply today.

To reserve your rebate application, check eligibility or receive complete program guidelines, call the Toilet Rebate Program Office at 888.843.9832.

Charlotte County's Toilet Rebate Program is cooperatively funded by a grant from the Peace River Basin Board of the Southwest Florida Water Management District.

Charlotte County Utilities

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~ SAVE WATER, SAVE MONEY ~

Replacing Your Toilet Flapper



enjoy years of savings from
your new, low-flow toilet

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Is your toilet running?

Getting to the bottom of a leaky toilet can be perplexing. Some leaks are silent, some produce a running water sound and others may be visible as a small trickle running from the rim to the water in the bowl. Locating your leak may require some detective work.

To find out if a leak is being caused by the flapper, put a few drops of food coloring or a dye tablet in your toilet tank. Wait about 15 minutes. If the tank is leaking, color will appear in the bowl and you likely have a leaky flapper that needs to be replaced.

How much water can a flapper waste? Depending on the extent of the leak, a warped or poorly fitting flapper can waste up to 200 gallons of water per day and may cost you hundreds of dollars a year.

Simple fixes

If your toilet is leaking, try the following:

- Water level in the tank should be about ½-inch below the top of the overflow tube. Use a screwdriver to adjust the screw on the end of the float arm or gently bend the arm up or down until the correct level is achieved.
- If you need to jiggle the handle to stop the water running after a flush, you should oil, tighten or replace the flush handle. Use an adjustable wrench to tighten the nut attached to the handle inside the tank.
- Check for holes and cracks in the float ball. If the ball is filled with water or no longer floats, it should be

replaced. Unscrew it from its tubing and screw on another in its place.

- Adjust the lift chain so it hangs straight from the handle lever with about ½-inch of slack.
- Check the flapper or flush valve. If it's worn or corroded, it needs to be cleaned or replaced.
- If the water won't shut off, replace both the flapper and the ballcock.
- If these simple procedures don't stop the leak, call a plumbing professional.

Replacing your toilet flapper



1. Shut off the water supply to your toilet, typically behind the bowl, below the tank. If there's no valve or the valve is stuck, turn off the water to the house.
2. Flush to clear the water from the tank. Note the length of chain from the flush handle to the flapper. This will save time when installing the new flapper.
3. If the flapper is connected by a circular ring around the tube, remove the refill tube from the overflow tube. (If not, go directly to step 4.)

4. Remove the chain from the flush lever, then, remove the old flapper by sliding it up and off the overflow tube. Or, unhook the flapper ears from the overflow tube. For new plastic flush valves, you may have to bend the flapper ears out and off the pins on the flush valve.
5. Write down the toilet manufacturer and the model number if you know it. The manufacturer's name is often stamped on the outside of the bowl near the seat hinges and the model number is normally on the inside at the back of the tank.
6. Take the old flapper and the information you've noted to a plumbing supply or home improvement store that carries replacement flappers. The store should have information on the correct replacement flapper for your toilet and appropriate settings for adjustable flappers. Be prepared to pay \$2 to \$20 for the right flapper. And don't forget to get a beaded metal flapper chain replacement.
7. Install the new flapper by sliding it down and over the overflow tube until the ring touches the bottom of the tank, with the flapper bulb centered on the valve opening. For plastic valves, cut the ring off the flapper along the lines marked "cut" and slip the ears of the flapper over the pins on the flush valve.
8. Reattach the chain to the flush lever and adjust the length as necessary.
9. Turn the water supply on, fill the tank and make sure the flapper opens, closes and seals properly.