

IS YOUR TOILET LEAKING?

What to Look and Listen For

A small leak can add up to a lot of wasted water!



A toilet can waste a surprising amount of water without leaving water on the floor or making an obvious sound. Some leaks are easy to see, while others occur entirely inside the toilet and may be silent.

COMMON WAYS A TOILET CAN LEAK

1 Flapper Leak

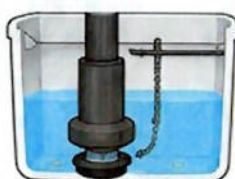


The rubber flapper at the bottom of the tank does not seal completely because it is worn, warped, dirty, or has something caught under it.

What you may notice:

- Nothing visible on the floor
- Little or no sound
- May refill itself periodically
- Slight, continuous movement of water in the bowl

2 Flush Valve/Seal Leak

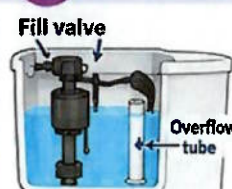


The valve or seal that closes the opening between the tank and bowl is damaged or deteriorated.

What you may notice:

- Usually no water on the floor
- Slight, continuous flow in the bowl
- May be silent or an occasional refill sound

3 Fill Valve Not Shutting Off



The fill valve fails to stop the incoming water when the tank reaches the proper level.

What you may notice:

- Continuous hissing or running sound
- Water entering the tank
- Water flowing into overflow tube
- Usually no water on the floor

4 Water Level Too High



The fill valve is adjusted incorrectly or malfunctioning, allowing the tank to fill above the proper level.

What you may notice:

- Continuous or intermittent running
- Water moving inside the bowl
- No visible water outside the toilet

5 Cracked or Leaking Tank / Other Seals



A crack in the tank, loose bolts, a worn gasket, or other components can leak.

What you may notice:

- Water on the outside of the tank or on the floor
- Dampness around the toilet
- Possible staining or damage to flooring
- Usually no sound

6 Supply Line Leak



The flexible supply line, shutoff valve, or connection can develop a leak.

What you may notice:

- Water on the floor behind or beside the toilet
- Dampness
- Usually silent, but a significant leak may be audible

TRY THE FOOD-COLORING TEST

It's an easy way to find a silent internal leak.



Remove the lid from the toilet tank.



Add several drops of food coloring to the tank water.



Do not flush the toilet.



Wait 10-15 minutes.



Look inside the bowl.

If colored water appears in the bowl, water is leaking from the tank into the bowl.

REMEMBER

A toilet does NOT have to leak onto the floor to waste water.

An internal toilet leak can send water directly from the home's water supply into the sewer.

- You may see no puddle.
- You may hear no running water.
- You may notice nothing unusual at all.

The water meter will still measure the water passing through the toilet.

If you notice unexpectedly high water usage, checking toilets for silent leaks is a good place to start.

TOILET TROUBLE WASTES WATER!

Even a small leak can add up to a lot.

Here's how much water a continuously running toilet can use based on different flow rates:



*Save
Water.
Save
Money.*

Continuous Toilet Running — Estimated Water Loss

 Continuous Flow (gallons per minute)	 Per Hour (gallons)	 24 Hours (gallons)	 7 Days (gallons)	 30 Days (gallons)
0.10 gal/min	6 gal	144 gal	1,008 gal	4,320 gal
0.25 gal/min	15 gal	360 gal	2,520 gal	10,800 gal
0.50 gal/min	30 gal	720 gal	5,040 gal	21,600 gal
0.75 gal/min	45 gal	1,080 gal	7,560 gal	32,400 gal
1.00 gal/min	60 gal	1,440 gal	10,080 gal	43,200 gal
1.50 gal/min	90 gal	2,160 gal	15,120 gal	64,800 gal
2.00 gal/min	120 gal	2,880 gal	20,160 gal	86,400 gal
3.00 gal/min	180 gal	4,320 gal	30,240 gal	129,600 gal

What might this flow indicate?

General examples — actual leak rates vary.



0.10 – 0.25 gal/min

- **Slow / small internal leak**
Such as a worn flapper or flush-valve seal.



0.50 – 1.00 gal/min

- **More substantial leak**
Such as a fill-valve problem or water entering the overflow tube.



1.50 – 3.00 gal/min

- **Major continuous flow**
Potentially a severely malfunctioning fill valve or stuck fill valve/overflow condition.



A toilet leak can range from a slow internal leak to a major continuous flow.

Even a small leak can waste hundreds or thousands of gallons over time. The actual amount depends on the condition of the toilet, the failed component, and the rate of water loss.



Check for silent leaks



1 Add several drops of food coloring to the tank water.



2 Do not flush the toilet.



3 Wait 10–15 minutes.



4 Look inside the bowl.



If you see colored water in the bowl...
your toilet is leaking from the tank into the bowl.

This means the toilet is using water even though it has not been flushed.

— Check for leaks. It makes a difference! —