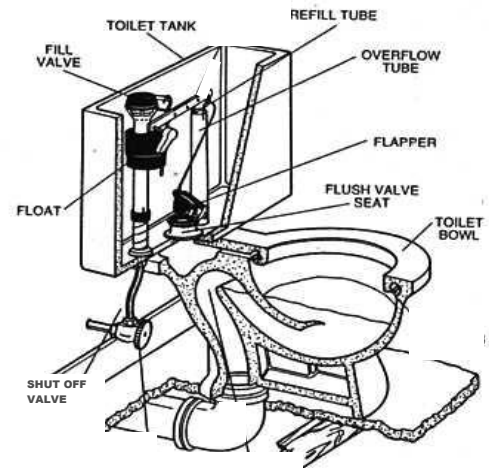


Toilet Training Tutorial

1 in 4 toilets leaks. Follow these 6 steps to check for the two most common causes of toilet leaks, water spilling into the overflow tube and worn flappers.



Check 1: Water Spilling into the Overflow Tube

1. Remove the lid from your toilet tank.
2. Look for the overflow tube in center of the tank.
3. Check if the water in the tank is spilling into the overflow tube.
If yes, then you've found a toilet leak!
The water level in a tank should be 1" to 1 ½" below the top of the overflow tube.

The simple fix: Depending on the flushing mechanism you have, there are three basic ways to lower the water level: (1) tighten the center screw on the fill valve or; (2) gently, but firmly, bend the float ball arm down or; (3) pinch the silver clip and slide it down the fill valve rod. Flush the toilet after you make the adjustment. You may need to replace the fill valve if the water level does not change.

Check 2: Worn Flapper

Continue leak detection if water is not spilling into the overflow tube:

4. Drop a leak detector dye tablet or a couple of drops of food coloring into the toilet tank –**not the bowl**.
5. Do not flush the toilet. Wait until the tablet has dissolved and the water in the **tank** has turned color—approximately 20 minutes.
6. Look inside your toilet **bowl**. If you see colored water inside the **bowl**, then the flapper is leaking water from the tank into the bowl!

The simple fix: Wipe the underside of the flapper and the “seat” that it closes onto. Dirt, rust, or a filmy build-up could be preventing the flapper from closing completely. Repeat steps 4-6.

Still leaking? Consider replacing the flapper by turning the water off at the shut off valve near the base of the toilet, flush the toilet to drain the tank, and install new flapper.

Replacing parts:

Always remember to purchase the appropriate replacement parts for your type of toilet. Check with the manufacturer if you are unsure about the correct items needed or if you have questions about your particular toilet.

Replacing an old toilet?

Look for a WaterSense certified toilet.



Log in to Aquastar and see your water usage by the hour, day or month. Set an alert to notify you of unexpected use. Search Aquastar at www.townofcary.org.



Questions about testing your toilet? Call (919) 469-4387.

Questions about your water bill? Call (919) 469-4050.