



Leak Detection Helpful Hints

Toilet

Detection:

There are a number of signs that a toilet needs some repairs, but many toilets leak without conspicuous indications of trouble. Here are some of the more obvious signs of a leaking toilet:

-If you have to jiggle the handle to make a toilet stop running.

-If you have to hold the handle down to allow the tank to empty. This can also mean the chain or strap is too long and doesn't lift the flapper or ball high enough to float on its own.

-If you see water running over the top of the overflow, you definitely have a leaking refill valve. If you are unsure whether or not water is running over the top of the overflow pipe; sprinkle talcum powder on top of the water in the tank, and you can clearly see whether or not it is.

-If a toilet turns the water on for 15 seconds or so without you touching the handle, this is otherwise known as the phantom flusher.

However, even if your toilet doesn't have any of these symptoms, it's still possible that it is leaking. These leaks are known as SILENT LEAKS, because they usually go undetected.

In a properly functioning toilet, water should only move from the tank to the bowl when the toilet is being flushed. A leaking toilet loses water from the tank to the bowl without flushing. Also, take notice of the water level in the toilet tank. The water level should never reach the top of the overflow tube. If it does, place the overflow tube to avoid wasting water.

There are two ways to determine if you have a leak:

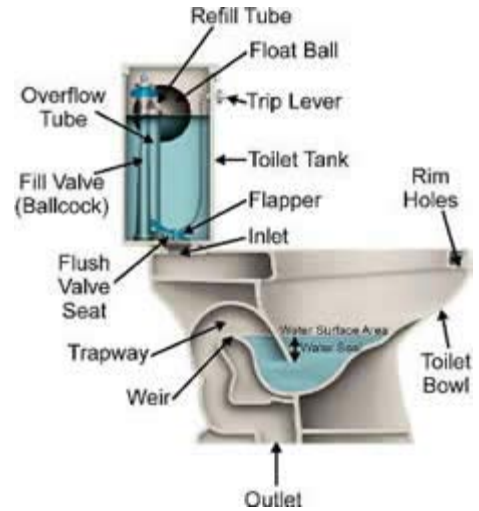
1. Add dark food coloring or blue toilet cleaner tablets to the toilet tank and wait 40 minutes. Be sure to add enough to color the water in your tank a dark color. Do not flush. If the water in your toilet bowl changes colors, you have a leak.
2. Shut off water to the toilet tank and flush. Once the tank is empty, touch the flapper, if a rubbery residue from the flapper comes off your hand, you have a leak.

Repair: The cause of most toilet leaks is a worn out flapper or ballcock.

A new flapper is relatively inexpensive and easy to replace.

Flappers can be found at local hardware stores and home improvement stores.

Be sure to bring your old flapper when purchasing a new one.



CONSERVATION TIP

Know where your master water shut-off valve is located. This could save water and prevent damage to your home.