Other problems

While some toilet repairs are easy, others are more complicated. Know your limitations – call a plumber if you have any concerns about how to make a repair. The Portland Water Bureau will not be responsible for any damage to your home or toilet because of faulty repairs.

Replacing an Old Toilet

Often it costs more to repair a leaking toilet than to replace it with a new one. Oregon law requires that all toilets sold today use 1.6 gallons or less per flush. More efficient toilets are also widely available including 1.28 gallon-per-flush high efficiency toilets and dual-flush models.

Today it's easy to find a water saving and high-performance toilet thanks to WaterSense - a national program sponsored by the United States Environmental Protection Agency. Only toilets that are 20 percent more water-efficient than standard toilets and pass rigorous independent performance testing receive the WaterSense label. Look to make sure that any toilet you buy has the WaterSense label.



Another resource for choosing a new toilet is the Maximum Performance Testing study of toilet performance. It is an excellent, unbiased source for information about the performance of popular toilet models and brands. Download a free copy from the resource section of our website: www.portlandoregon.gov/water/ efficiency

Retrofitting Your Existing Toilet

If you have an older toilet that uses more than 1.6 gallons per flush (typically toilets that were installed prior to 1995), there are a few things you can do to make your toilet use less water. Visit the Portland Water Bureau Efficiency Program's website at www.portlandoregon.gov/ water/efficiency or call (503) 823-4527 to get more information.

Toilet Recycling

Did you know that your old toilet could have another life as part of a roadway? Toilets (and sinks) can be recycled.

Contact Metro's Recycling Hotline -**503-234-3000** for locations near you.

For more information or to request materials:

Portland Water Bureau Water Efficiency Program

503-823-4527

conserve@portlandoregon.gov www.portlandoregon.gov/water



Saving water makės cents!



Portland Water Bureau WATER EFFICIENCY PROGRAM 1120 SW 5th Avenue, Room 600 Portland, OR 97204



To help ensure equal access to City programs, services and activities, the City of Portland will reasonably modify policies/procedures and provide auxiliary aids/services to persons with disabilities. Call 503-823-4527 with such requests.







Toilets use about 26% of all the water in an average American home. They are also one of the likeliest places to find leaks that can waste as much as thousands of gallons per month.

A leaky toilet can be expensive. Save money and water by fixing simple toilet leaks yourself. This will not only reduce your water bill and prevent clean water from being sent to the treatment plant, but will also reduce stress on the larger drinking water system. Follow these easy steps to repair common toilet leaks.

Step 1 – Find the leak

Sometimes it is easy to tell that your toilet is leaking – you hear the sound of running water or a faint hissing or trickling. **But many times, water flows through the tank silently**, which is why toilet leaks are often overlooked. To check for toilet leaks, lift the toilet tank lid. Drop

one **Dye Tablet** (available from the Portland Water Bureau) or several drops of food coloring **into the tank** (do not flush). Wait at least 10 minutes and check the bowl of the toilet. If there is dye in the bowl, the toilet has a leak.



Step 2 - Gather tools

- An adjustable crescent wrench
- Replacement flapper valve (flapper)
- Hand towel

Step 3 - Check the chain & handle

If you have to jiggle the handle to keep the toilet from running, it may be a misaligned flapper valve 2 a loose handle 9 or an incorrect length of chain 4.

To fix: Adjust the chain **4.** Make sure the chain is neither too long nor too short. Tighten the nut that holds the toilet handle to the tank. If that does not work, the handle may have to be replaced.

Step 4 - Check the flapper

The flapper valve 2 may not be sitting properly on the valve seat 3 or it may need to be replaced. Over time, the flapper's rubber material deteriorates. If you gently rub the flapper and get streaks on your fingers, you should replace it right away.

To fix: Begin by turning the water inlet shut-off valve clockwise to turn the water off 1. Flush the toilet to drain the tank. Check the valve seat 3 for corrosion and clean it if necessary. Check the flapper valve 2 to make sure it is lining up properly with the valve seat. If needed, replacement flappers can easily be purchased at hardware stores and some large grocery stores. Take your old flapper with you to make sure you get one that is identical. After installing the new flapper valve, open the water inlet shutoff valve 1 and flush to test.

Step 5 - Check the overflow tube

If the water level in the tank is too high, it may continuously spill into the overflow tube 5 creating a large leak. If the water level is too low, you may not get an efficient flush. The correct water level is about one-half to one inch below the top of the overflow tube.

To fix: To adjust the water level you must adjust the height at which the float shuts off the fill valve. Manufacturers have several variations on fill valve mechanisms, but they all include a method for adjusting the water level. Close inspection should make it clear how to adjust your particular fill valve.

Toilet Type 1:

In float ball-style toilets, a float hangs at the end of a metal or plastic float arm? Where that arm connects to the fill valve 18 there is usually a screw 10 Adjusting that screw will change the level at which the water valve shuts off. If there is no screw or it is already at its maximum, you may be able to carefully bend the metal arm 6.

Toilet Type 2:

In vertical float-style toilets, the float 11 is often a collar around the fill valve 13 that rides up and down vertically. The float typically has a spring clip 12 connecting it to a metal rod that connects to the fill valve shutoff. Squeeze the spring clip to slide the float up or down the metal rod.



