

How to Replace a Toilet Flapper in 6 Easy Steps



Replace Your Leaky Toilet Flapper

Is your toilet constantly running water? Do you have ghost flushes? Have you seen a recent increase in your water bill? You probably have a leak—and the culprit may be a faulty toilet flapper.

What is a Toilet Flapper?

The flapper is the plug that falls against the drain hole on the bottom of the tank and holds water in. When you flush, the flapper lifts, allowing water to flow into the bowl. As the tank empties, the flapper lowers to block the opening, letting the tank refill.

Flappers usually last about 4-5 years, and as they wear out, they create a less than perfect seal, and leak. Not sure what to buy? Take your old flapper to the store and ask for help.

Save water by stopping leaks in your bathroom and all around your house.

Visit www.epa.gov/watersense for more great tips. 

1: Turn off the water. Illustration shows a toilet with a red arrow pointing to the shut-off valve on the wall.

2: Remove the toilet's tank cover and flush. Illustration shows the tank cover being lifted and a flush being initiated.

3: Remove the old flapper. Illustration shows a pair of pliers pulling the old, worn flapper away from the drain hole.

4: Attach the new flapper to the pegs. Illustration shows a new flapper being pushed onto the top of the drain hole.

5: Reattach the chain for a tight seal, making sure the seal is strong. Illustration shows the chain being reconnected to the flapper and the flush valve.

6: Turn the water back on and flush. Illustration shows the toilet tank cover being replaced and a flush being initiated to test the new flapper.