

HOW TO FIX A LEAKY TOILET

Toilets are notorious for hidden leaks. Over 50 gallons of water can be wasted each day due to an undetected toilet leak. Fixing toilet leaks can potentially save each household hundreds of gallons of water per month. Moreover, most leaks are due to worn parts (e.g. valves), which can be replaced by yourself or by calling a plumber. Below are a few suggestions on how to identify and repair leaky toilets, along with a picture to help identify the parts of a toilet.

Repairing Silent Leaks:

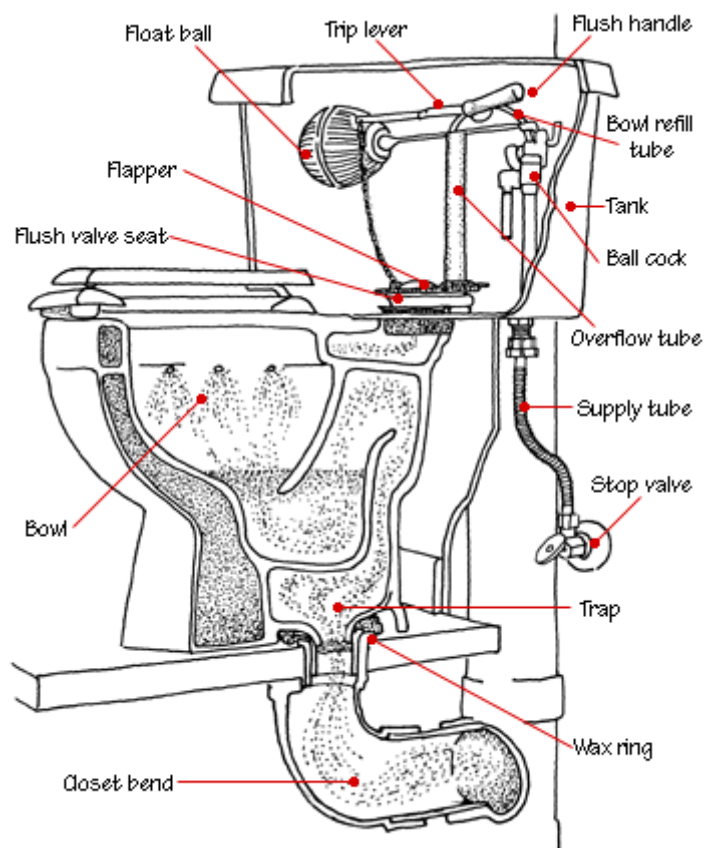
To check for silent leaks, put a few drops of food coloring in the tank. Wait for 10 minutes—don't flush! If there is coloring in the bowl, you have a silent leak. This type of leak is usually caused by a worn flapper in the bottom of the toilet tank. Replacing the worn flapper or fixing its alignment will most likely solve the problem. If you are not sure how to repair this type of leak, you should call a plumber to avoid any further problems or before the leak gets worse.

Repairing Running Toilets:

If you hear water trickling after you've flushed, then your toilet is leaking. The most common place to look is in the tank. It may be as simple as untangling the chain. If that's not it, look at the flush valve seat for any debris. Cleaning that helps ensure a good seal between the flapper and the flush valve seat.

Another cause could be the float ball; if you pick up the float ball and the water shuts off, you know the problem is right here. Bend the tube connected to the float ball down until the natural level of the water shuts the valve off and you hear the water stop running. This should be about an inch and a half below the overflow tube.

The float ball may also fill with water and lose its buoyancy. In that case, buy a replacement and simply screw it on, which will restore the toilet to good working order.



For more information, visit www.toiletology.com or www.hometips.com

