

How to find a leak

TOILET PHANTOM FLUSHING

Remember to Water Smart.

More than 20 percent of toilets have a leak, find out if yours is among them. To figure out if your toilet is leaking, start by listening. Does your toilet sound like it's running all day (continuous trickling)? Or does it sound like your toilet is refilling periodically (phantom flushing)?

If your toilet sounds like it is refilling periodically, also known as "phantom flushing," you probably have a worn rubber flapper or an improperly adjusted flapper chain that is allowing water to leak from the tank to the bowl. To determine if this is your problem, conduct a dye test using leak detection dye tablets. If you do not have dye tablets, food coloring or a powdered drink mix also will work. To conduct a dye test, follow these steps.

- 1.** Place the dye tablets or coloring agent in the tank.
- 2.** The water in the tank should change color, but the water in the toilet bowl should remain clear.
- 3.** Wait five minutes and check to see if any coloration appears in the toilet bowl. If the water in the bowl has changed color, the problem is either a leaking flapper valve or the flapper chain needs to be adjusted.

Flappers are cheap and easy to replace. You can find them at your local home improvement store. Make sure you get the appropriate flapper model for the toilet you have to ensure a proper fit. Before replacing any parts on your toilet, be sure to follow the part manufacturer's installation instructions and turn off the water supply valve to the tank (usually found on the wall behind the toilet). When turning off the water supply valve to the toilet, simply turn the knob until it is snug, and not tight, to prevent it from breaking off or coming loose.

