

Toilets

Toilets can account for almost 30% of all indoor water use, more than any other fixture or appliance. Older toilets use 3.5 to 7 gallons of water per flush and as much as 20 gallons per person per day. Replacing an old toilet with a new model can save the typical household 7,900 to 21,700 gallons of water per year, cutting both water and wastewater bills.

Tips

Install an ultra low-flow toilet that requires only 1.6 gallons per flush.

When installing a low-flow toilet in areas with a low drainage gradient (such as basements), consider a pressurized model.

An average of 20% of toilets leak, so check periodically for leaks and repair them promptly. .



Reduce the amount of water used by an older toilet by placing a brick, a one gallon plastic jug of water, or two one quart bottles, in the tank to displace toilet flows. Or you can install a “dam” that partitions off a section of the tank so it can’t fill with water. These methods can save over 1,000 gallons of water per person per year.

Don’t use the toilet as a trash can. Anything that isn’t biodegradable should be put in the trash instead of the toilet. Things that should not be flushed down the toilet include medications, cotton swabs, cotton balls, bandage wrappers, wipes of any kind (baby wipes or cleaning cloths), personal care products, etc.

