

The Villages



WATER WISDOM

SMART MANAGEMENT OF WATER RESOURCES IN FLORIDA'S FRIENDLIEST HOMETOWN

Proper Toilet Function

This issue of Water Wisdom will focus on what you can do to maintain a well functioning toilet. Leaking toilets can waste up to 200 gallons of water a day. Some leaks can be silent and some will produce a running water sound.

To detect a silent leak:

Remove the tank lid and any colored cleaning agents. Flush to clear the water in the bowl, and be sure that the water in the tank is clear. Add a few drops of food coloring to the water in the tank. If the tank is leaking, color will appear in the bowl within 10 or 15 minutes.

To ensure proper function:

- Water may be overflowing if the water level is set at an incorrect level. The level in your tank should remain about one-half inch below the top of the overflow tube in the middle of the tank. To adjust the water level, use a screwdriver to adjust the screw at the end of the ballcock float arm until the correct water level is achieved.
- Replace or tighten a handle that has to be jiggled after a flush. To tighten, use an adjustable wrench to tighten the nut attached to the handle on the inside of the tank.
- Check for holes or cracks in the float ball. If it no longer appears to float properly, it probably needs to be replaced.
- Adjust the lift chain so it hangs straight from the handle lever with a one-half inch slack.
- Check the rubber flapper on the bottom of the tank and replace if it is worn.
- If the water doesn't shut off at all replace both the flapper and the ballcock.

There are various types of toilets, and these suggestions are for the most common type of toilet. If you have a different type of toilet, you may need to follow different procedures. If you are unable to fix the problem on your own, then contact your plumber for more assistance.

The Villages Water Wisdom program aims to help you become a *Water Wise* resident and a better steward of our precious water resources.