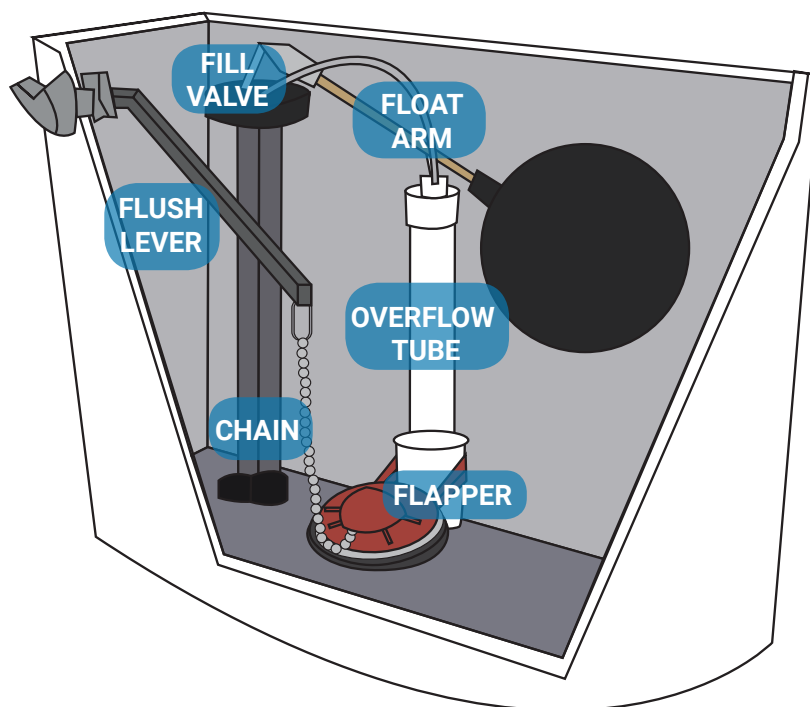



SPOTTING AND FIXING A TOILET LEAK




Leaking Flapper

Drop a dye tablet or several drops of food coloring into the tank and wait an hour. If the colored water appears in the bowl before flushing, the toilet flapper is leaking.

 Disconnect the old flapper and install a new one. Flappers do not last forever so check them periodically.


Running Toilet

Do you jiggle the handle to keep the toilet from running? If yes, the flush level and chain, or the handle itself may be sticking.

 Adjust the nut that secures the flush level inside the toilet tank. If that does not help, you may need to replace the handle.


Loose Handle

If the handle feels loose every time you flush the toilet, the nut inside the tank may be loose, which is easy to fix!

 Remove the lid and tighten the nut so that it is tight but still moves freely.

Leaking Fill Valve

Remove the toilet lid from the tank and mark the water level with a pencil. Flush the toilet. The water level should return to the marked line when the tank refills.

 If the tank's water level is above or below the pencil line, adjust the water level in the tank so the water shuts off 1-inch below the overflow tube.

More information about identifying and fixing household leaks can be found on our website at www.loudounwater.org/leaks

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LOCATING LEAKS AT HOME

BATHROOM

- Toilets:** The most common source of leaks. Drop a dye tablet or food coloring into the tank and wait an hour before flushing. If colored water appears in the bowl before flushing, the toilet flapper is leaking and needs to be replaced.
- Showers and sink faucets:** Does your faucet or showerhead leak when not in use? Does water leak out of the tub spout when showering? Does the showerhead leak around the joints? If you answered "yes" to any of these questions, you may need to make simple repairs.
- Under the sink:** Look for pooling water under pipe connections as well as rust around joints and edges.

LAUNDRY

- Washer:** Check for pooling water around the washer which can indicate a supply line leak.
- Under the sink:** Look for pooling water under pipe connections as well as rust around joints and edges.

KITCHEN

- Faucet:** Look for dripping. Adjust aerators or replace fixtures as needed.
- Sprayer:** Water should spray smoothly. Clean the openings as needed.
- Under the sink:** Look for pooling water under pipe connections as well as rust around joints and edges.
- Appliances:** Look for pooling water below dishwashers and refrigerators with ice makers. Excess water can indicate a supply line leak.

BASEMENT/UTILITY/GARAGE

- Water heater:** Check all pipes coming off of your water heater. Some pipes flow directly into a drain and are not noticeable. Check your Temperature & Pressure Valve (TP Valve) for any drips.
- Exposed pipes:** Check exposed pipes in the basement or garage for leakage around joints and edges.

OUTSIDE

- Hose bibs:** Look for water leaking around the connection. The hose washer may need replacing.
- Irrigation:** Broken sprinklers, nozzles spraying in the wrong direction, extra green spots and standing water may indicate a leak in an irrigation system