

## THE LEAKING TOILETS

The most common source of water loss inside the home is the leaking toilet.

Are you:

- Tired of constantly flipping the flush handle to get the toilet to stop running water?
- Tired of hearing the toilet running in the middle of the night?
- Tired of paying high water bills when you don't need to?

Generally, there are only two reasons for these types of problems, and the solution is very simple:

- Remove the cover from the tank. If the water level is too high, the excess water will be running into the overflow pipe, going directly to either the sewer or the septic tank. The cause of this problem could be that the float setting is too high. Usually there is a float adjustment screw at the top of the fill valve. Turning the screw clockwise will cause the valve to close before the water reaches the top of the overflow pipe. The ideal water level is one inch below the top of the overflow pipe.
- If you look in the toilet bowl and see the water rippling and you hear water continually running, the problem is the flapper in the bottom of the tank. The flapper may be cracked, or has lost its original shape due to years of use. In this case the flapper should be replaced. Another problem could be a buildup of water deposits on the bottom of the flapper or seal ring under the flapper. A simple solution to this problem is using a little vinegar and a scrubber sponge to clean both the seal ring and the bottom of the flapper. Remember, before working on the flapper, shut off the water supply to the toilet and empty the tank by flushing it. **Note!** At times, a leak under the flapper may be so small, that it is only noticeable when every so often you hear the water run for a short time and then shut off. To check for a leak, ask your water agency for a couple of blue leak tablets. Put these in the tank and allow a few minutes for them to dissolve. If the water in the bowl begins to turn blue (without flushing), then you have a leak. Remember: leaks will not fix themselves, or get better. Leaks get worse. As a leak increases, so does your water bill.

**A leaking toilet is a thief!  
Robbing you of money  
Robbing us all of water**