

HOW MANY GALLONS OF WATER DOES A TOILET USE

One of the largest users of water in any home is the toilet. It is difficult to know how to save water if we do not first know how much water we are using.

One of the simplest ways to measure the amount of water your toilet uses is to first measure how many gallons the tank holds. To do this, remove the tank cover and make a pencil mark where the level of water is. Shut off the water supply valve to the toilet. Flushing the toilet will drain the tank without refilling it.

Using a known premeasured container (such as a one gallon plastic jug, half gallon plastic jug or a one quart plastic pitcher), begin filling the toilet tank with water and keep count of how many containers it takes to fill the tank to the previous full mark. This will indicate the amount of water used each time you flush your toilet. **Note!** You can now turn the supply valve on.

Assuming your home was built before 1994 and the toilet has not been replaced, you probably used 3 ½ gallons of water to refill the toilet tank. Not all of us are the same, and only you would know how many times per day you flush the toilet in your home. By multiplying 3 ½ gallons of water by the number of times per day you flush your toilet, you will determine the total gallons of water used to flush your toilet each day by one person.

The more people in a home, the more times the toilet will be flushed. Here is an example of the equation:

$$\begin{array}{r} 3.5 \text{ Gallons per flush} \\ \times 4 \text{ Flushes per day} \\ \hline 14 \text{ Gallons per day} \\ \times 5 \text{ Number of people in the home} \\ \hline 70 \text{ Gallons per day} \\ \times 7 \text{ Days per week} \\ \hline 490 \text{ Gallons per week} \\ \times 4 \text{ Weeks per month} \\ \hline 1,960 \text{ Gallons per month} \\ \times 12 \text{ Months} \\ \hline 23,520 \text{ Gallons per year} \end{array}$$

Note! These figures can vary depending on how many people you have in the home and the number of times per day the toilet is flushed.

If your home is newer than "1994" it probably was equipped with toilets using 1.6 gallons of water per flush.

Available on the market now, are toilets which use 1.28 gallons per flush.

Using the same formula in the example, you can calculate the difference.

3.5 gallons per flush equals 23,520 gallons per year.

1.6 gallons per flush equals 10,752 gallons per year.

1.28 gallons per flush equals 8,601.5 gallons per year.

*As you will see, it will not only save a great deal of water, but it will also save you a great deal of money to take advantage of the toilet replacement program supported by your local Water Department and Mojave Water Agency.