

## Replacing the flapper

1. **WARNING:** *although this is not a difficult process, hire a licensed plumber if you don't feel comfortable performing the following work.* Turn off the water at the valve on the line between the toilet and the wall. If the valve is frozen you will have to turn the water off to the house.

2. Flush the water that is in the tank and note the length of the flapper chain as it is attached to the handle. This will save you time when you install the new flapper.

3. Remove the flapper.

4. Note the manufacturer and model of the toilet if you know it or if it is stamped on the back of the bowl. Also note if it says 1.6 gpf, which means 1.6 gallons per flush, on the bowl or in the tank. This will help with finding the right flapper. Also note any information such as numbers that are stamped on the back or inside the tank.

5. Take the old flapper and the information you noted to a plumbing specialty store—check our website for a list of some locations that have shown that they carry a good variety.

6. Show the store personnel the flapper and information you have on the toilet. If it is a 1.6 gpf toilet, be sure you let them know you want to keep the flush at 1.6 gpf.

7. Be prepared to pay \$2 to \$10 for the correct flapper. It'll be cheaper in the long run. Avoid the 99-cent flapper. It may not fit, will not last long and will often turn a 1.6 gpf toilet into a 4 gpf water waster.

8. Once you have the correct flapper, install it on the toilet, adjusting the chain as it was before you took the old flapper off. Turn on the water and test. Make water level and chain length adjustments if needed.

## Checking water usage

If you have access to your water meter, read the water meter, flush the toilet and read the water meter again. The meter will tell you exactly how much water it takes to flush the toilet. If you have a 1.6 gpf toilet and the meter reads more than 1.6 to 2.4 gallons, it is likely the water level is not set properly. If your reading for a 1.6 gpf toilet is over 2.4 gallons you have the wrong flapper for your toilet.

For a listing of popular toilet models and the correct replacement flapper and other water saving ideas, please call **974-2199**, or visit us on the web at [www.cityofaustin.org/watercon](http://www.cityofaustin.org/watercon)

*Para obtener información en español,  
llame al 974-2787.*



**City of Austin Water  
Conservation Program**



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Is your toilet  
**leaking**  
inside?



### Warning:

Your toilet could be wasting thousands of gallons of water.

Over 20% of toilets are leaking inside.

Turn the page to learn how to diagnose and fix common internal toilet leaks.

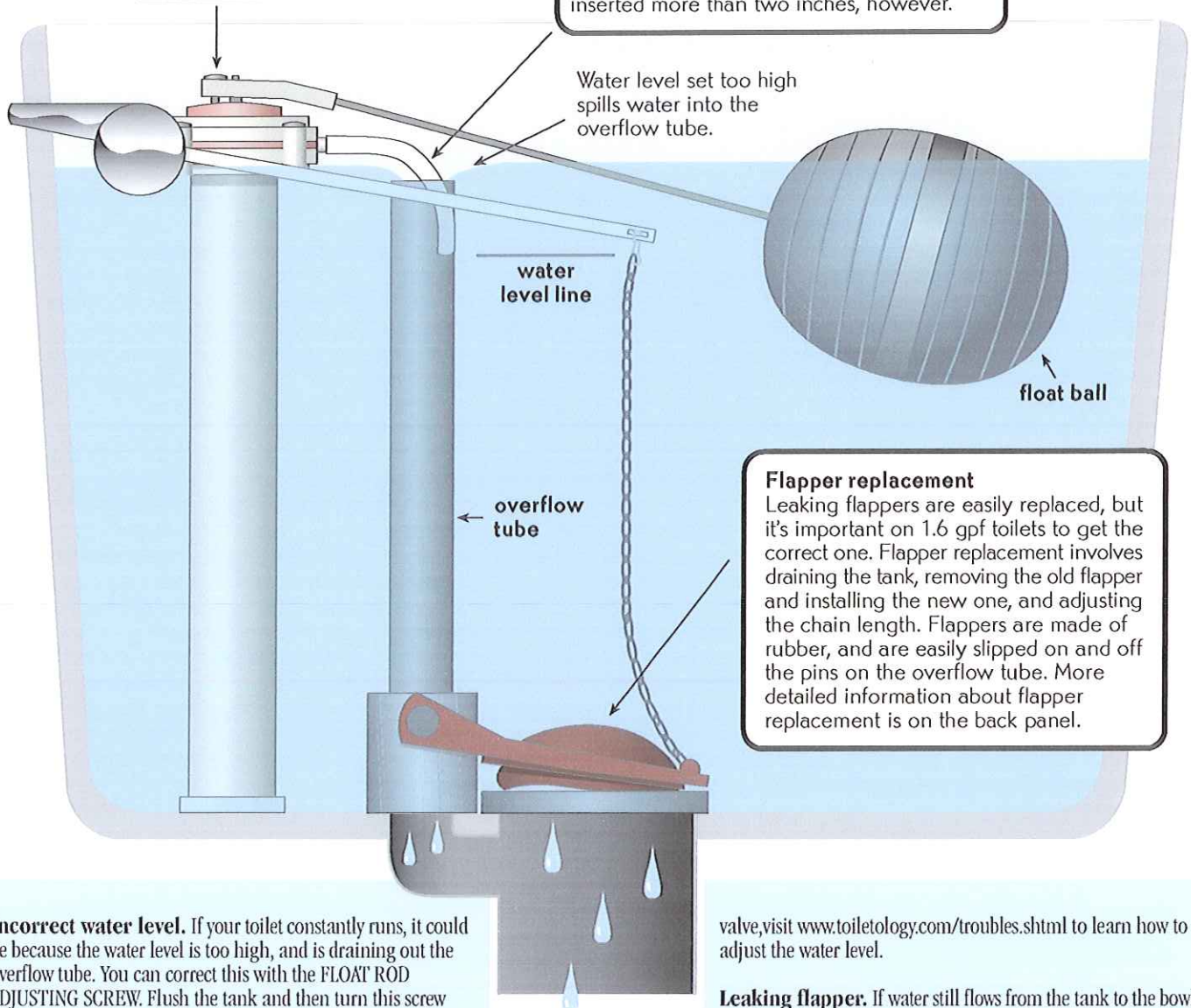
# Finding and fixing Common toilet leaks

## Adjusting the water level

Turn the FLOAT ROD ADJUSTING SCREW clockwise to lower the water level, and counterclockwise to raise it. If this adjustment is corroded or stripped, the unit will need to be replaced.

## Refill tube placement

Make sure the refill tube is securely inside the overflow tube, so that it does not pop out when the toilet starts refilling. It should not be inserted more than two inches, however.



Water level set too high  
spills water into the  
overflow tube.

float ball

water  
level line

overflow  
tube

## Flapper replacement

Leaking flappers are easily replaced, but it's important on 1.6 gpf toilets to get the correct one. Flapper replacement involves draining the tank, removing the old flapper and installing the new one, and adjusting the chain length. Flappers are made of rubber, and are easily slipped on and off the pins on the overflow tube. More detailed information about flapper replacement is on the back panel.

**Incorrect water level.** If your toilet constantly runs, it could be because the water level is too high, and is draining out the overflow tube. You can correct this with the FLOAT ROD ADJUSTING SCREW. Flush the tank and then turn this screw CLOCKWISE to lower the float ball, and cause the water to be cut off earlier. Adjust this screw until the water shuts off just before it reaches the top of the overflow tube or is even with the "water level" line. You may have another type. If so, visit our web site or call us for more info. If you have a Fluidmaster 400 refill

valve, visit [www.toiletology.com/troubles.shtml](http://www.toiletology.com/troubles.shtml) to learn how to adjust the water level.

leaky flapper allows  
water to flow into  
toilet bowl

**Leaking flapper.** If water still flows from the tank to the bowl, it is likely that the flapper needs to be replaced. Before doing this, make sure you have the correct flapper for your toilet. 1.6 gpf toilets use special flappers, and using an incorrect or universal flapper could result in your toilet using much more water than it should.

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