Water costs money... don't waste it!

A leaking toilet can waste up to
5 gallons of water a minute.
That equals 7,200 gallons of water a day!

Gallons of water wasted at 60 psi water pressure with a continuous leak in the size shown

Diameter of water stream	Gallons wasted per day	Gallons wasted per quarter
•	813	74,000
●	3,253	296,000
●	7,319	666,000
●	12,984	1,181,500

Prevent leaks in your toilet

Change the flapper on your toilet every 3-5 years and check to make sure that the fill/inlet valves are working properly.

Toilets are an integral part of our lives. We use them every day. And when they leak, they can waste hundreds, even thousands of gallons of water a day.

It can be expensive, as silent toilet leaks often go unnoticed until we read your meter. Your water and sewer bill could double or even triple in a quarterly billing cycle.

About 20 percent of all toilets leak. Most toilet leaks occur from the tank on the back of the toilet into the bowl, and then into the sewer. They might not make much, if any, noise.

While common, toilet leaks are usually easy to fix.

Worn out flappers are a major cause of leakage; they should be replaced every three to five years. Flappers are relatively inexpensive and can be found at most hardware and building supply stores.

Fill or inlet valves can get jammed with dirt or debris. Mineral deposits build up in home plumbing.

Through normal use, and following any plumbing work in the system, small pieces of those deposits can break off and clog toilet fill/inlet valves or keep them open and running.

Is your money going down the toilet?

Finding and fixing toilet leaks

For more information on finding and fixing toilet leaks, please go to our website at www.stpaul.gov/water

SAINT PAUL REGIONAL WATER SERVICES

1900 Rice Street
Saint Paul, MN 55113
(651) 266-6350

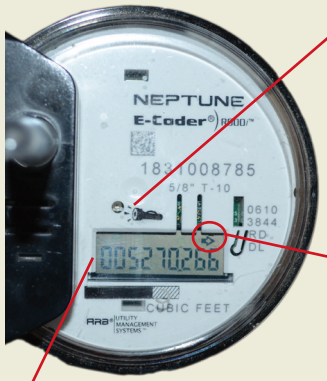
Locating and reading your water meter

Your meter is located inside your home, about one foot off of the floor in your basement. It could also be in a crawl space, pit in the floor, or utility room. It is not outside.

Reading Your Meter

*You will need a **flashlight** to read your meter.*

Your display panel will alternate screens between total water use and rate of flow.



Light Sensor

Shine a flashlight to turn on the display panel.

Flow Indicator

Visible only when water is running.

Display Panel

Read all nine numbers from left to right to obtain a water meter reading.

Leak Indicator

This indicates a possible leak. It notes that water has been used throughout most of the day. If no leak is detected, the faucet image will not appear.

Rate Indicator

"RATE" means it is displaying the rate of water flowing through your water meter. The rate is measured in cubic feet per minute.

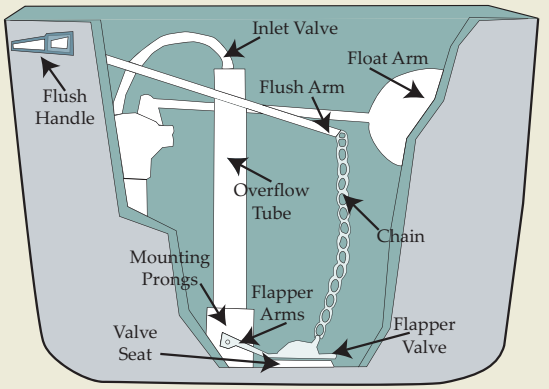
Leaky toilets waste water and your money

Finding a toilet leak

1. Take the lid off of your toilet tank.
2. Put in a few drops of food coloring or a few dye tablets.
3. Stir the water in the tank with a long spoon or stick.
4. Wait 25 - 30 minutes.
5. Do not flush or use the toilet.
6. Look in the bowl. If the coloring has seeped from the tank into the bowl, you have a toilet leak.
    1. If the float is not adjusted properly, water can continue to fill into the tank, and drain down the overflow tube.
        A. Pull up on the float.
        B. If the water stops running, you might need to adjust the float.
    2. The fill valve/ inlet valve is not set properly or has malfunctioned. This sometimes causes a hiss or a squeal when filling.
        A. Try adjusting the fill valve.
        B. You might need to replace it.
    3. If a black residue rubs off when you touch the flapper, it's time to replace it.

Do you have to jiggle the handle to make the toilet stop running?

You might need to adjust the chain so that it allows the flapper to sit in the valve seat properly.



How to clean debris from the fill/inlet valve

1. Turn off the water supply to the toilet.
2. Remove the top cap from the fill /inlet valve.
3. Remove the loose washers and internal parts from inside the valve.
4. Confirm the seals are in good shape.
5. Place a plastic cup over the center of the fill/inlet valve.
6. Slowly turn the water back on. The water will flow out forcefully through the center of the fill/inlet valve and remove any debris.
7. Turn off the water supply to the toilet.
8. Re-install the fill/inlet valve parts and replace the cap.
9. Turn the water supply on.
10. Check to see if the fill/inlet valve turns off properly when the tank is full.
11. If not, you may need to replace the fill/ inlet valve.

The advice listed here is general. SPRWS recommends contacting a licensed plumber for professional advice if you require additional assistance.