

Stay Informed

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IS YOUR TOILET RUNNING? CATCH IT!

Toilets are the biggest culprit for leaks inside the house and they often leak silently. It's estimated that 20 percent of all toilets leak; each toilet can leak 200 gallons or more per day. If your toilet has been steadily leaking for years, you may not notice the slow increase in your water bill, so it is best to check your toilets now—it only takes 10 minutes. Below are the three most common toilet leaks, two of which are due to faulty flappers. It is imperative that the rubber flapper in your toilet is the correct flapper for your toilet brand and model.

Flapper Leaks:

1. Put a few drops of food coloring in the tank or pick up free dye tablets from the 630 Garden St., water display counter.
2. Wait 10 minutes without flushing.
3. If you see color appear in the toilet bowl, your rubber flapper is leaking and needs to be replaced with the correct flapper for your brand and model of toilet.
4. Replace the flapper and re-test to make sure the new flapper works properly.

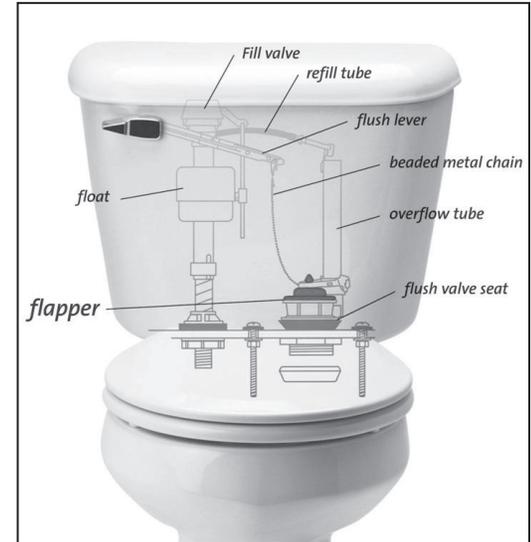
Overflow Tube:

Many toilets in Santa Barbara leak overnight when the water pressure rises. The water level in the toilet tank can rise above the overflow tube and run down the tube silently.

1. Remove your tank lid and observe the water level. The water level should be one full inch below the top of the overflow tube. If it is higher, it most likely runs at night. You may sometimes see water lines in the tank where the water has risen.
3. Adjust the water level down depending on your toilet type. First, give the toilet a half-flush to empty part of the tank and make adjustments easier.
 - If you have a floating ball: adjust the screw on the top of the fill valve mechanism (turn clockwise) to lower the ball.
 - If you have a floating cylinder: adjust the "V" shaped clip on the stiff wire link (slide it down) to lower the cylinder.
4. Flush (full flush) again once adjusted to see where the water level naturally rises.
5. The following day, check the water level. Adjust as needed.

Excessive Flush Volume:

Not all universal flappers are universal, and a mismatched flapper can result in gallons of undetected water waste per flush. To check this, you will need to look inside the tank.



Many toilets leak silently, often due to an issue with the rubber flapper. Photo: toiletflapper.org

1. Take off the tank lid and then watch what happens when you flush the toilet.
2. The flapper should open to drain most of the water in the tank, and then close after a few seconds to fill back up. When the flapper closes, there should be about 2 inches of water remaining in the tank before it starts to refill.
3. If your flapper stays open longer than a few seconds, or drains the tank completely on each flush, you may have a mismatched or faulty flapper.
4. Replace the old flapper with the flapper that is designed for the brand and model of your toilet.

For more information on toilet leaks and how to repair them, visit SantaBarbaraCA.gov/Leaks. The City's Water Conservation Program is here to help everyone save water with a free water checkup. Call (805) 564-5460 for more information. Let's save together!



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ARE YOU RECYCLING RIGHT?

As consumers of goods and then creators of waste, we are all responsible for knowing what is and isn't recyclable in our local system. Recycling markets over the last year have changed and those changes directly impact what we can accept and recycle



Get to know what is and is no longer recyclable in curbside blue bins.

locally. For instance, paper and plastic containers that previously held food are no longer recyclable in our curbside blue bin. However, these items make up less than 2% of our blue bin materials by weight and are typically the biggest cause of food and water contamination. The other 98% of recyclable materials are all plastic bottles/jugs, dry paper and cardboard, clean glass, and all metals. Everything about what is and isn't recyclable is always up-to-date and available on our website.

Please review SBRecycles.org to see if you are recycling right. If you have questions about the updated recycling list you can give us a call at (805) 564-5631. Our staff is here to help!

CITY SANDBAGS, WHEN AND WHERE

Any time a "Flash Flood Watch" is issued by the National Weather Service, Public Works staff will open the City's sandbag station and make sandbags available to residents free of charge. Residents are reminded that the City Sandbag Distribution Policy is designed to assist in the protection of private property only during storm emergency conditions.



Sandbags are available free to residents whenever there's a Flash Flood Watch.

The City will announce the hours of operation on Channel 18 (City-TV) and through other local media outlets when the Sandbag Station is open. Before and during storm events through the winter, residents should monitor radio and TV and go to the City's website for updates and announcements. Residents should bring their own gloves and shovels and be prepared to fill the bags they need. Note that when filling sandbags, fill them only half way, so they are not too heavy to lift and will stack properly. You may take 20 sandbags per trip. The sandbag station is located at 401 E. Yanonali Street. For more information, visit: SantaBarbaraCA.gov/SandBags



\$150 REBATE
WASH, RINSE, REBATE...
HIGH EFFICIENCY WASHING MACHINE
\$150 REBATE

Let's Save Together
waterwise
City of Santa Barbara

SantaBarbaraCA.gov/Rebates

WHAT TO EXPECT FOR CENSUS 2020

Everyone counts. The census counts every person living in the U.S. only once, and in the right place.

It's about fair representation. Every 10 years, the results of the census are used to reapportion the House of Representatives, determining how many seats each state gets.

It's in the constitution. The U.S. Constitution mandates that everyone in the country be counted every 10 years. The first census was in 1790.

It's about \$675 billion. The distribution of more than \$675 billion in federal funds, grants and support to states, counties and communities are based on census data. That money is spent on schools, hospitals, roads, public works and other vital programs.

It's about redistricting. After each decade's census, state officials redraw the boundaries of the congressional and state legislative districts in their states to account for population shifts.

Taking part is your civic duty. Completing the census is mandatory: it's a way to participate in our democracy and say "I COUNT!"

Your privacy is protected. It's against the law for the Census Bureau to publicly release your responses in any way that could identify you or your household. By law, your responses cannot be used against you and can only be used to produce statistics.

2020 will be easier than ever. This year, you will be able to respond to the census online.



WeAllCount
Todos Contamos
SantaBarbaraCounty
CENSUS.ORG
APRIL 1, 2020

Learn what to expect in the census and why it's important to be counted.