

Hints For The Home



Are Your Old Toilet Parts Disaster-Prone?

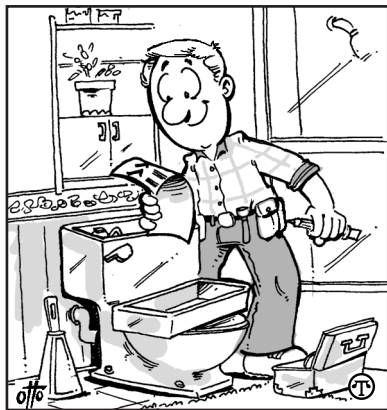
(NAPSA)—It's quite easy to ignore the inner workings of a toilet, sometimes for years on end. Toilets just don't seem to demand much attention.

But as neglect becomes a household habit, changes can occur inside a toilet tank that most people never imagine. Tank parts such as fill valves, flappers and tank levers age and weaken. Gaskets, seals and connectors deteriorate. The process accelerates when you use in-tank cleaners or drop-in tablets containing bleach.

Most often, failing parts are the cause of wasteful, annoying leaks. But broken-down parts can also trigger catastrophic flooding that leads to hefty property damage, higher insurance rates and household nightmares such as rot, mold and mildew.

Avoid trouble tomorrow by inspecting toilets today. Fluidmaster, a leading maker of toilet parts, suggests a yearly review of tank parts (fill valve, flapper, flush valve, tank lever and supply connector) against the following risk factors:

- Was the part installed over five years ago?
- Has the part ever been exposed to in-tank bleach cleaners such as drop-ins or tablets?
- Is there visible rust, cracks



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or warping?

- Is corrosion or heavy mineral buildup evident?

Tank parts with one or more “yes” answers should be replaced soon, before failure occurs.

In the case of gaskets (between tank and bowl or bowl and floor) that are not readily visible, look for wobbling, rocking or noticeable moisture where the bowl meets the tank or floor. All are warning signs that a gasket needs quick replacement. For a secure, lasting seal, always install new bolts whenever a gasket is replaced.

For a complete review of toilet parts, Fluidmaster offers a do-it-yourself Inspection Checklist on its Web site, www.fluidmaster.com.