

HINTS FOR HOMEOWNERS

Big And Little Ways To Stop Wasting Water

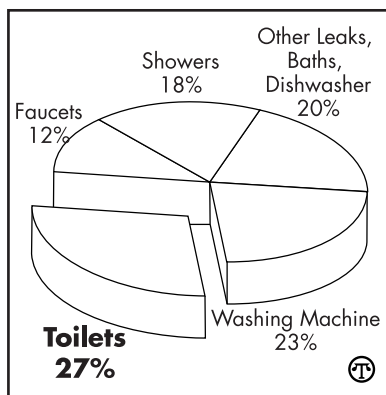
(NAPSA)—It can be easy to take water for granted. Open the tap, flush the toilet, turn on the hose—water seems to always appear when you need some. However, the water supplied to our homes is a carefully manufactured product that has undergone multiple treatment processes and many miles of travel. It's a valuable resource that should be respected and used wisely.

Still, almost every household is wasting water in big and little ways. According to Fluidmaster, Inc., the world's largest maker of toilet repair parts, a leaky toilet is one of the most flagrant sources of water waste. Even well-tuned toilets account for the single biggest use of household water (27 percent), and when toilets aren't running efficiently, they're true guzzlers. In just one year, a leaky toilet can lose enough water to fill a backyard swimming pool.

Almost all toilet tank leaks can be fixed by replacing the tank's flapper and/or fill valve. Both are easy do-it-yourself projects. There are flappers and fill valves available that are designed to be especially water-stingy.

For example, a water-saving flapper called the Adjust-A-Flush Flapper rotates to vary the water volume in the toilet tank for the ideal flush. A new type of water-wise fill valve called Leak Sentry Toilet Fill Valve has a built-in device that prevents endless, automatic refilling of leaking tanks, as well as a bowl refill adjustment to prevent wasteful overfilling of the toilet bowl.

Here are other tips for saving water:



Even in good repair, toilets use more water than any other household fixture.

- Replace regular toilets with low-flow (1.6 gallons per flush) models. (Saves up to 350 gallons weekly.)

- If you have a pool, use a cover to slow evaporation. Bonus: a cover also keeps pool water cleaner and cuts the need for chemicals. (Saves up to 250 gallons weekly.)

- Replace old-fashioned showerheads with low-flow (2.5 gallons per minute) models. (Saves up to 230 gallons weekly.)

- When taking a bath, fill the tub with no more than three inches of water. (Saves up to 100 gallons per person weekly.)

- Don't use a running hose to clean your patio, driveway or sidewalks. (Saves up to 100 gallons weekly.)

- Rinse fresh produce in a sink or pan filled with water instead of under a running faucet. (Saves up to 30 gallons weekly.)

For more conservation advice, visit www.fluidmaster.com. The site has "Water-Wise" Tips under the "Toilet Know-How" section.