

# THANK YOU VETERANS



HONORING ALL WHO SERVED

★★★★★ NOVEMBER 11, 2025 ★★★★★



On November 11, 2025, let us take a moment to honor the individuals who have served our nation with courage, dedication, and sacrifice. Their unwavering commitment to protecting our freedoms and preserving our way of life is a debt we can never fully repay. But it is one we will always remember with deep gratitude. The North Springs Improvement District proudly salutes our veterans and their families for their service, strength, and selflessness. On this Veterans Day, we extend our heartfelt thanks and appreciation to all who have worn the uniform of the United States Armed Forces.

# FOOLPROOF

## Flushing



North Springs Improvement District A  
November 2025 Newsletter



2024 Plant Operations  
Excellence Award



# WHAT EVERY HOMEOWNER SHOULD KNOW

## *About Toilets and Water Efficiency*

Toilets might not be the first thing that comes to mind when we think about water use, but they really do make a big impact on how much water we consume at home!

**Did you know** that flushing accounts for nearly **30%** of the water used indoors in an average household? Old toilets can use up to **6 gallons per flush**, leading to wasted water and higher utility bills. Upgrading to an efficient model can help save both water and money!



Thanks to exciting advancements in design and plumbing technology, homeowners today can choose from a variety of options that not only perform better but also use a lot less water.

It's all about understanding what makes modern toilets unique, spotting leaks when they happen, and figuring out which maintenance tasks or upgrades are right for you.

This month, let's focus on making those flushes not just reliable but also super efficient!



# THE EVOLUTION OF TOILETS

*Efficiency without Compromise*

## Lower Flush Volumes

Thanks to engineering advancements, many modern toilets use only **1.28 gallons per flush** (gpf), which is **20% less** than the federal standard of 1.6 gpf.

Toilets certified under the WaterSense program also meet strict water efficiency and flushing performance criteria. It's great for your bathroom and the environment!



## Water and Cost Savings

Swapping out old, inefficient toilets for modern, efficient models can lead to some fantastic savings!

Many households may notice a drop in water use related to toilets by anywhere from **20% to 60%**. That means you could **save around 13,000 gallons of water each year**—pretty impressive, right? In terms of your wallet, that adds up to about \$170 off your water bill every year, and over the toilet's lifespan, you could save a whopping \$3,400.

**Did you know** that if everyone replaced their old toilets, we could save over **260 billion gallons of water each year**, equivalent to the flow of Niagara Falls for about five days. Even small improvements add up—let's make our homes more water-efficient!



## Performance Matters

In the past, early "low-flow" toilets faced some challenges, like needing to be flushed multiple times. Over the years, toilet manufacturers and regulators teamed up to develop strict performance standards over the years.

Now, today's efficient models are designed to excel in several important areas:

- **Flushability** across a variety of waste types
- Bowl surface **cleaning**
- Waste **transport** through drain lines
- Solid waste **extraction capability**

If you see a WaterSense label on a tank-type toilet, you can be confident that it has been independently tested to meet or even exceed these performance standards!

## Dual-Flush Options

**Did you know** that some modern toilets come with a handy dual-flush feature?

This means you can choose a lower volume flush for liquid waste and a higher volume flush for solid waste. When used correctly, these toilets can significantly help conserve water. Plus, with the upcoming WaterSense changes in 2025, both the full and reduced flush options will be capped at a maximum of 1.28 gallons per flush. It's a great way to be more eco-friendly!

# COMMON TOILET PROBLEMS

and What You Can Do at Home

## Silent Leaks

Did you know that many toilet leaks can go unnoticed? They often don't cause any visible dripping or constant running, which makes them hard to detect.

One of the usual suspects is a **worn or warped flapper**, the rubber or plastic valve that seals the tank. Over time, mineral build-up or wear can keep it from sealing properly. Keeping an eye on your toilet can help catch these sneaky leaks before they become a problem!



## Constant Running or Overflow Flow

If you notice water flowing continuously or see it moving into the overflow tube, it might be worth checking a few things:

- The **flapper** may be misaligned or not functioning properly.
- The fill **valve** could be worn out.
- The water level in the tank may need a little adjustment.

## Misuse of Dual-Flush Functions

Dual-flush toilets are a great way to conserve water, offering **two flushing options**. It's helpful to make sure everyone in the household knows which button or lever to use for liquids (the reduced flush) and which one is for solids (the full flush). That way, we can all do our part in conserving water while keeping things clean!

## WHEN SHOULD YOU Replace the Entire Toilet?

Taking care of your toilet with regular maintenance and small repairs is a great way to keep it functioning well for a long time! However, there are moments when replacing it can be a smarter choice. Here are some situations to consider:

- The bowl or tank has cracks or is too damaged to fix.
- It often clogs or needs several flushes.
- The internal parts are old, or you can't find replacement parts.
- You want a toilet that uses less water and works better.



# HOW TO TEST

## For a Leak

STEP

1

Remove or lift the tank lid.



STEP

2

Add a few drops of food coloring or a dye tablet into the tank water.



STEP

3

Wait 5 to 10 minutes without flushing.



STEP

4

If color appears in the bowl, you have a leak. Flush immediately to prevent staining.



If you've found a leak, don't worry! Replacing the flapper can be a simple and affordable DIY fix. Most hardware stores have a variety of universal options for you to choose from. Just bring your old flapper or snap a quick photo to help compare. Also, take note of any extra features like a foam float that you might need. Typically, flappers last around five years in normal conditions, so it's good to keep an eye on them!

# TOILET TROUBLE

## What Should Never Go Down A

### Hygiene Items

Wipes (even "flushable" ones) clog pipes. Tissues, paper towels, cotton balls, pads, tampons, and diapers don't break down like a toilet paper.



### Trash

Plastic, wrappers, cigarettes, and bandages belong in the trash bin, not the toilet.



### Personal Waste

Medicine, floss, and hair angle or pollute water systems. Always throw them in the trash.



### Pet Waste

Cat litter and pet waste bags don't dissolve and can damage plumbing.



### Food & Grease

Food scraps and oils harden in pipes and cause blockages.



### Cleaning Products

Harsh cleaners, disinfectants, and chemicals can harm plumbing and pollute water.



# SIMPLE TIPS TO MAINTAIN

*an Efficient, Leak-Free Toilet*

- Perform the **dye test** annually to detect silent leaks.
- Plan to replace the flapper about **every five years**, or sooner if symptoms appear.
- If your toilet is consistently running or not flushing properly, inspect tank components or consult a plumber.
- **Educate** all household members on how to use a dual-flush (if present) correctly.
- When upgrading, choose **high-efficiency models** that offer strong performance rather than just emphasizing low water use.

## Closing Thoughts



You don't have to be a plumbing pro to save water in a big way! By keeping an eye on your toilets and doing a few simple checks, you can tackle any leaks or issues that come up. This way, you'll reduce water waste and lower your bill, all while still enjoying reliable flushing. It's easy and helpful for both your wallet and the environment!

The next time you come across "Foolproof Flushing With WaterSense," we hope it brings to mind smart upkeep, thoughtful upgrades, and a home that flushes cleanly and efficiently.



# FINN'S GRATITUDE HUNT

Help Finn find things to be thankful for this Thanksgiving.

Find one item per clue and draw it!

Bonus: Share your gratitude drawings with @nsid\_district!

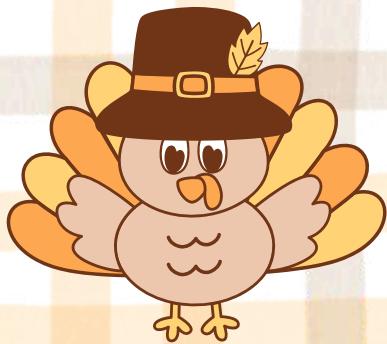


Something that makes you smile

Something that helps you learn



Something that grows



Something you love to share



Someone you're thankful for

