

Toilet Repair-Flapper Replacement

Introduction

Many toilet flappers look alike, and in many cases a basic universal flapper will do fine, but some toilets require a specific flapper, a universal flapper just will not work. For example, many American Standard toilets, old and new need a specific flapper and Kohler toilets in most cases require a unique flapper, for the specific Kohler toilet you have. Not all Kohler flappers will work on other Kohler toilets.

Once the flapper is removed, you'll want to take it with you to the hardware store/home center to find the replacement part. This is because when you get there you will find a daunting variety of replacement flappers and flapper seal rings, and you'll want to be sure to get the exact one. If you buy the wrong one, your toilet may not flush properly, or it may use more water than its design - therefore wasting water.

Of course, this assumes that the flapper you are removing is the correct one to begin with. If it was a replacement part, and you're not sure it was a correct one, you may need to seek professional advice, the toilet's owner's manual, manufacturer website or other resources to be sure that you get the right one.

In some cases, the entire flapper valve assembly may have to be replaced to insure the problem is completely resolved. This is covered in the second section of these instructions.

Flapper Replacement

1. Close the water valve (water stop) by turning it clockwise, as you would a faucet.
2. Turn off the water to the toilet by turning the knob on the shut off valve to the right until it stops. The valve should be located a few inches above the floor on the left when facing the toilet. *(In the case of simple flapper replacement, the water may not need to be completely turned off or turned off at all.)*
3. Remove the tank lid and store it out of the way so that it does not get broken. Be very careful because they are NOT a standard item that can be easily replaced, especially if you have an older toilet.
4. At the bottom of the overflow tube, notice the two pegs sticking out of either side. Remove the flapper from these pegs. There are many configurations from a simple piece of rubber to elaborate setups with weights or plastic housings, but most are very simple. To repeat from above-Once the flapper is removed, you'll want to take it with you to the hardware store/home center to find the replacement part. This is because when you get there you will find a daunting variety of replacement flappers and flapper seal rings, and you'll want to be sure to get the exact one. If you buy the wrong one, your toilet may not flush properly, or it may use more water than its design - therefore wasting water.
5. Install your new flapper in place of the old flapper. Attach the chain or lever and do some "dry flushes" a few times to make sure everything seems to be working. The toilet flapper may not automatically go down, but that's okay because most are designed to work with a tank full of water above them, not just dry air. Hooking up the chain to the flush handle and adjusting the chain is important, too little slack will prevent the flapper from sitting properly and will cause the toilet to run. Hook both sides of the flapper to the pegs and test to see if the flapper moves up and down freely. Leaving too much slack on the chain will cause the flapper to slam shut once you release the handle, causing you to have to hold the handle till the toilet flushes completely. Play with it till you get it just right.



**Figure 1: Water Stop
(angle valve, water valve)**



Figure 2: Flapper Valve



6. **Test your toilet flush mechanism and flapper.** Once you're satisfied that the toilet flapper is installed properly, turn on the water (or untie the toilet tank float) and let the tank fill with water. Flush the toilet, but pay special attention to how the flapper works. Is it opening enough? Did a full tank of water get flushed out? Is it closing properly? You may need to adjust the chain or lever tension or length to make sure everything is working just right. Once you are sure the chain is connected correctly, you may need to tie up or remove the excess chain because it can get caught on the flapper keeping it from going back down
7. Replace the tank lid.

Special Note: American Standard Seat Disks.

Older American standard toilet have an actuator in place of a flapper. it looks like a big black thing with a round tube on top that the chain attaches to, when you flush this toilet the actuator seems to lay on it's back for a few seconds and then drops back down, and the tank refills. On the bottom of this actuator is a rubber disk, this disk is what you need to replace, there are two kinds of disks, one snaps on and the other screws on. Most stores sell a disk that can be used for either.

Instructions

1. Screw or pull the old one off (this is a very dirty job. The black from the rubber comes off on to your hands).
2. Clean the seat and put the new one on, test a few times.

While you are at it, don't forget to install a Toilet Guardian to alert you to potential money wasting water leaks as well as eliminate the water loss if there is. The Toilet Guardian is also great if you just want to prevent bowl overflows caused by kids, seniors, disabled persons or simple blocked drains.

Conserve, Contain, Complete



Eco-Smart Water Valve Saves Money, Water and Eliminates Overflows

Ask us about our Dual Flush Conversion Kits to maximize your water (MONEY) savings.