

# Toiletology 101: Testing a Toilet for Leaks

There are a number of signs that a toilet needs some repairs. However, many toilets leak without conspicuous indications of trouble. Here are some of the obvious signs of a leaking toilet:

- If you have to jiggle the handle to make a toilet stop running.
- Any sounds coming from a toilet that is not being used are sure signs of a leak.
- If you have to hold the handle down to allow the tank to empty.
- If you see water running over the top of the overflow, you definitely have a leaking refill valve.
- If you see water trickling down the sides of the toilet bowl long after it has been flushed.
- If water drips out of the refill tube into the overflow pipe.
- If a toilet turns the water on for 15 seconds or so without you touching the handle, otherwise known as the phantom flusher.



## How to tell if you have a leaking refill valve:

If you are unsure if water is running over the top of the overflow pipe, sprinkle talcum powder on top of the water in the tank. You will clearly see if it is. You can also sprinkle talcum powder on top of the water in the bowl and see if water is leaking into the bowl.

You can also check the water level in the tank. It should be at least one inch below the top of the overflow pipe. If it is less than 1 inch, adjust the float ball and recheck the water level.

## Take the dye test

To easily check if a toilet has a leak, perform the dye test. Place several drops of food coloring in the tank of the toilet, but do not flush.

Let it stand for 30 minutes.

Then, check the toilet bowl. If the coloring appears in the bowl, your toilet flapper valve needs replacement.

If no color appears, you probably do not have a leak.

Dye tablets are available at the Cashier's Office.