



### **DIRECTIONS TO CHECK IF YOU HAVE A LEAKY TOILET:**

- Remove the tank cover and put 2 drops of food coloring (any color-except yellow) inside the tank.
- DO NOT FLUSH**
- Wait 15 minutes
- If the water in the **bowl** remains clear, no leaks!
- If the water in the **bowl** turns blue, there is a leak in the tank
- After testing, make sure to flush toilet to remove coloring.

**The repair may be a very simple one.**

**Learn how to do it yourself or contact a licensed plumber**

**PLEASE CONTACT THE DUDLEY WATER DEPARTMENT  
WITH ANY QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS AT:**

**PHONE: 508-949-8007**

**EMAIL: [watersewer@dudleyma.gov](mailto:watersewer@dudleyma.gov)**

### **How much does installing a 1.6 gallon toilet save?**

- Replace a pre-1980 model that uses 7 gallons per flush. Save 5.4 gallons per flush 77%.
- Replace a pre 1980 model that uses 5 gallons per flush. Save 3.4 gallons per flush, 68%.
- Replace a pre-1980 model that uses 3.5 gallons per flush. Save 1.9 gallons per flush, 54%.



## **BUILD IN WATER SAVINGS**

Make your old toilet a water saver. Here are some easy ways to make your older model more efficient:

**INSTALL** one of several new toilet retrofit products available at hardware stores. Some work only with certain toilets, so get a recommendation from your local plumber on the right one for you

**REDUCE** the volume of each flush by placing a toilet dam or water-filled plastic bottle weighted with gravel in the tank if you have not already installed a 1.6 gallon toilet. Be sure not to interfere with the flushing mechanism

**NOTE: do not use bricks as they might disintegrate.**

### **Water Efficient Showerheads**

Some showerheads may still use 3-7 gallons or more per minute. If you have not installed a showerhead which uses 2.5 gallons per minute or less, you are missing an excellent way to save water and energy without sacrificing the benefits of a satisfying shower.

### **Faucet aerators**

Low-flow aerators mix air with tap water to reduce the flow to 1.5-2.5 gallons per minute. Faucets without aerators may be using 3-7 gallons per minute.

### **Water & Energy Efficient Appliances (Energy Star Label)**

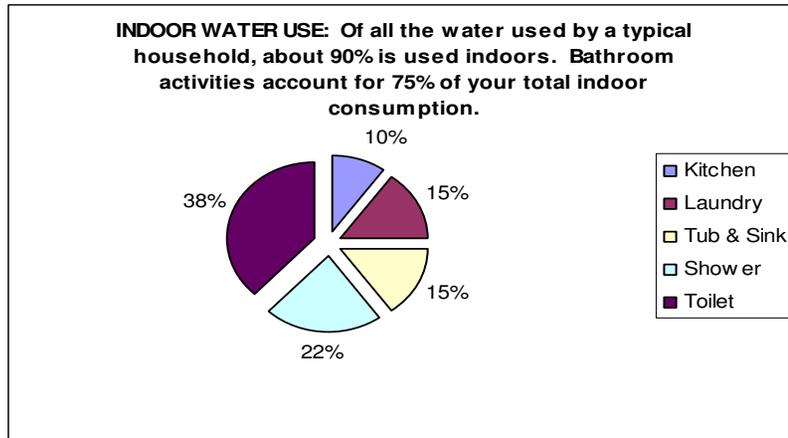
**HIGH EFFICIENCY WASHERS** unlike traditional machines, which must be filled to the top with water in order to immerse clothes sufficiently to clean them, front loaders use about 25 gallons per load. The horizontal wash tub allows clothes to be lifted through a shallow pool of water at the bottom of the tub. Front loaders save energy too-50%-or more by using less hot water and by extracting more water during the spin cycle, clothes need less time for drying. In addition to saving water, these new washers create less wear and tear on clothes, clean clothes better, and use less detergent. These machines save more water in one year than the average person drinks in a lifetime. To help defray the incremental cost of these new models, some gas and electric utilities offer incentives.

### **Dishwashers**

Newer energy and water efficient dishwashers exceed minimum federal government standards. These newer models operate on 13-25% less energy and on as little as 6 gallons of water per load. Benefits to the consumer include: lower utility bills, improved washing systems that eliminate pre-rinsing and less energy used to heat the water to clean the dishes.

When selecting new appliances, check the water and energy efficiency rating in manufacturer's specifications or consumer magazines and look for the Energy Star label.

**“We all share the same water—Please Use It Wisely”**



## WAYS TO SAVE WATER EVERYDAY

### **FIND & FIX HOUSEHOLD LEAKS**

There is a good chance you have at least one leak in your home that could be wasting hundreds of gallons of water a week, costing you money.

- **A few gallons in the kitchen, a couple dozen in the bathroom.... You could be wasting as much as 8700 gallons per year. It's time to develop some better habits.**
- **Turn off the tap while brushing your teeth or shaving. Save 4-10 gallons a day.**
- **Never use your toilet as a waste basket. Save 5-7 gallons per minute.**
- **Fill your bathtub only half way. Save 5 gallons or more.**
- **Run you washing machine or dishwasher only when full. Save 1-2 loads per week.**
- **Fill your sink or a basin when washing dishes instead of running water continuously. Save 8-15 gallons a day.**
- **Wash vegetables and fruit in a basin. Save 2-4 gallons a day.**
- **If you must run water to bring it up to temperature, bottle it for drinking, cooking or watering your plants. Save 1-2 gallons.**
- **Keep a jug of cold water in the refrigerator for drinking. Save 1-2 gallons.**
- **Be sure there are trigger nozzles on all your outdoor hoses. Save 20 gallons or more when you wash your car.**
- **Check your latest water bill to determine how many gallons of water your family now uses. Develop better habits and you may be able to reduce your use by as much as 40%!**

**Dripping Faucets & Showerheads** Worn-out washers-the cause of most dripping faucets and showerheads-cost pennies to replace and are easily installed.

### **Leaky Pipes**

Check under sinks, behind your washing machine and around basement plumbing for suspicious looking wet areas. Leaks not only waste water-they could be damaging your walls, floors, and ceilings. The challenge lies in protecting our supplies over the long term. With good water use habits and efficient home plumbing and appliances you can help make that happen-and lower your water and energy costs.

### **BE A METER READER:**

It's easy to read your water meter. There are two basic types. A "digital" meter reads like a car odometer. It measures water either in gallons or cubic feet. To convert cubic feet to gallons, multiply by 7.48. A "dial" meter is comprised of a cluster of dials. The "one foot" dial registers a cubic foot each time it goes around once. Other dials record tens, hundreds, thousands, etc. of cubic feet.

### **A SIMPLE TEST FOR LEAKS:**

Read your meter then be sure nobody uses any water. In 30 minutes, check your meter again. If the reading has changed, your home has a leak.