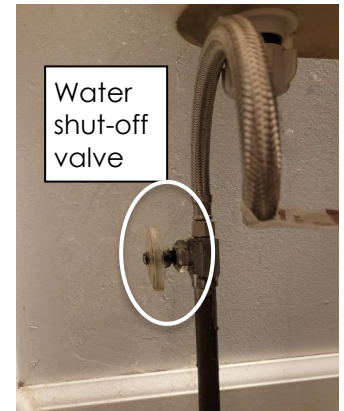




How to Fix a Leaking Toilet

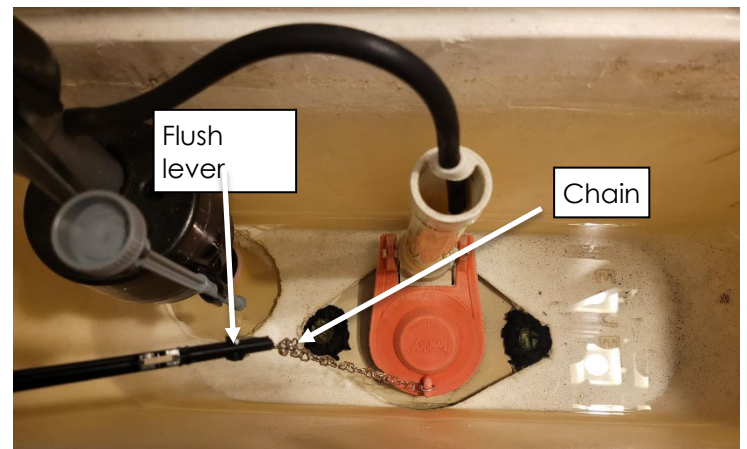
Most toilet leaks are caused by a leaking flapper. This is easy to fix and you can do it.

1. Turn off the **valve** leading to the bottom of the toilet. Be gentle, it is a small valve and you do not want to break it.
2. Remove the **lid** of the toilet **tank** and set it aside. The lid is heavy; be careful not to drop it.
3. Flush the toilet to empty the water from the tank.
4. Play a bit by pushing the **flush lever**, and seeing how far the **flapper** opens. This will help you later when you are putting things back together.

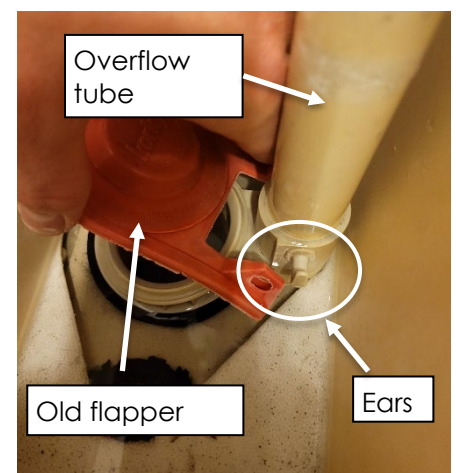


*Note: The water in the **tank** is clean. It has come straight from the water supply in your house. From the **tank** it goes into the **owl**. Then it's not clean anymore!*

5. Disconnect the **chain** from the **flush lever**.



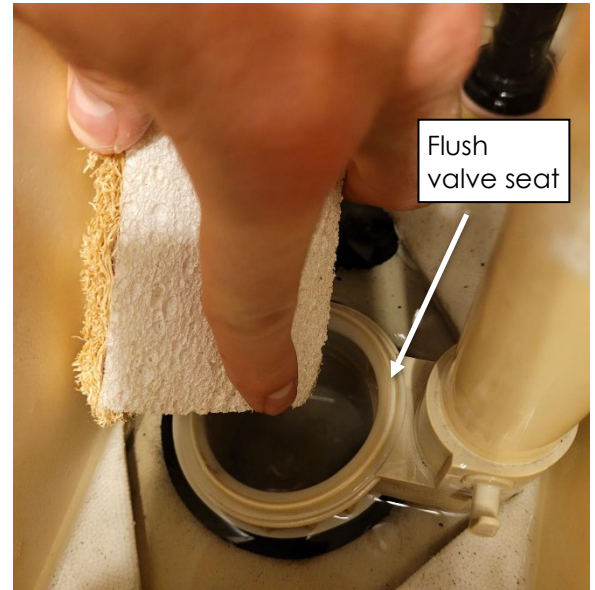
6. Pull the **flapper valve** off the **pegs** or **ears** and set it aside to look at later. It is probably hard and cracked. When you are done admiring the old one, you can throw it out.





7. Wipe the **seat** of the **flush valve**. That is the edges of the pipe where the **flapper** was sitting. Make sure there is no old rubber or other crumbs there, so the new **flapper** will not leak.

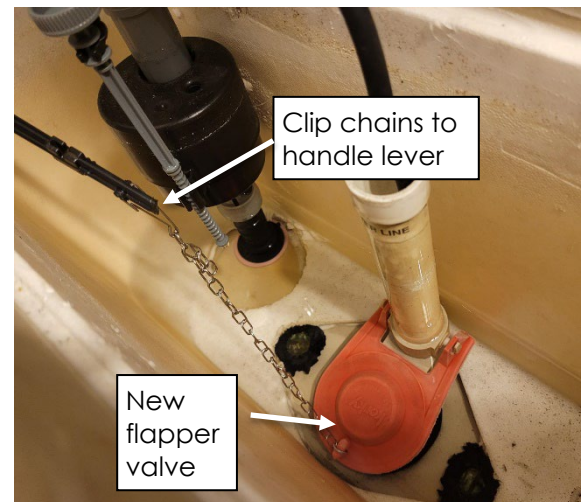
- If you live in an area with a lot of iron or calcium in the water, there may be **scale** inside the tank. If the scale is flaking off, it can catch between the **flapper** and the **seat**, allowing the water to leak out. Brush off and remove any loose scale.
- Remove any bits of the old gasket or other crumbs or grit that may be in the **tank**.



8. Install the new **flapper** on the **pegs**.

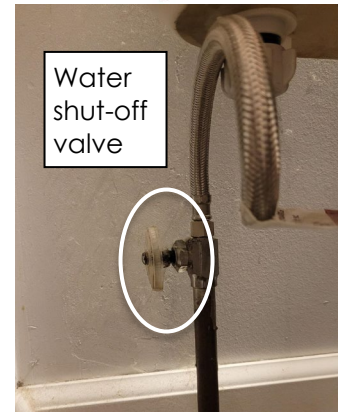


9. Connect the **chain** to the **flush lever**. Check the length of the **chain**. When you push the **lever** to flush the toilet, does the **flapper** lift right up? When it is closed, is the **chain** slightly loose? Then you are almost done.





10. Turn the **water** back on (gently) with the water shut-off valve.



11. Let the toilet **tank** fill. Once full, test to see if the leak is fixed.

- Put a dye tablet or a couple drops of food coloring into the water in the tank. If you are using food coloring, try to get it **ONLY** in the tank, not on your clothes, the bath mat, or your face.
- Leave the toilet sit without flushing for ten minutes or so.
- If color from the dye or food coloring appears in the **bowl**, you still have a leak.
- If you still have a leak, double check that the **flapper** and **chain** are both attached properly. If they are, it is time to call in reinforcements, because this leak will be harder to fix.

12. If the leak is fixed, **congratulations!** You are now saving “buckets” of water. A leak you can hear can be going through hundreds of litres of water a day.

13. Carefully set the **lid** back on the **tank**, throw away the old **flapper**, and tidy up your workspace.