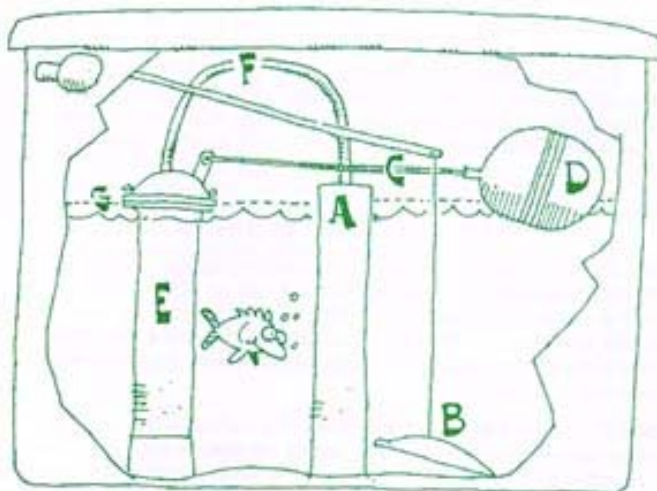


Fixing Leaky Toilets

Over 95% of all water waste is caused by toilet leaks. So, it's not surprising that most high bills due to water leakage are caused by worn or damaged parts in the flush tank.

- A. Overflow Pipe
- B. Plunger Ball
- C. Float Arm
- D. Float
- E. Inlet Line
- F. Fill Tube
- G. Water Line



Carefully remove the tank lid and make sure all the mechanisms are working properly. Also, make sure the fill tube "F" is placed so it empties into the overflow pipe "A".

There are three common reasons for a toilet leak. They are easy to detect.

Float Arm Not Working Properly

See if the overflow pipe "A" and the plunger ball "B" are working properly. Do this by flushing the toilet, watching the flow tank mechanism, and listening:

You should be able to hear the water flow shut off.

If the water does not shut off, has the water level risen above the overflow pipe "A"? If it has, gently bend the float arm "C" and adjust the water level. You want the plunger ball "B" to shut off the water when the water level is about 1/2" below the top of the overflow pipe "A". This "water line" "G" is marked in some toilet tanks. If adjusting the float arm doesn't fix it, you may want to have a plumber do the job.

Defective Plunger Ball

Check for a worn or improperly seated plunger ball "B" by placing a few (not more than 10) drops of red or blue food coloring into the toilet tank. Do not flush. If there is a leak, the dye-colored water will seep into the bowl in about five minutes. If the water in the bowl changes color, the plunger ball needs to be replaced or realigned, and you or a plumber should make the necessary repairs.

Pinhole Leak in Pipe or Float

A pinhole leak in the overflow pipe "A" below the waterline could produce an invisible leak. Check for this by shining a flashlight down into the overflow pipe. If you see running water, you have a leak and need to have this problem corrected.

Water in the overflow pipe could also be caused by a pinhole in the float "D", or a worn washer on the inlet line "E". Again, you may want to call a plumber to have this repaired.

