busting **4** common

# WATER MYTHS

## 1 "WATER IS CHEAP."

The price of water in the United States ranges from $3.00 per 1000 gallons (Sacramento, CA area) to $31 (Raleigh/Cary, NC area). Although most people account for the cost of the water entering their home, few consider the fact that there is also a cost to remove and treat that wastewater after it is used.

However, the true cost of water usage is not just financial. As freshwater supply begins to shrink, water has to be transported over greater distances, treated for use, and also treated again before returning to the environment – requiring more money and resources.

In addition, many of the over 10,000 water agencies in the United States are shifting to a tiered and/or seasonal rate structure. What does this mean? To put it simply, the more water you use in the home, the higher the per-gallon cost - use the same amount of water but get charged a higher bill. In all cases: it pays to conserve water not only to lower your bill, but also to sustain potable fresh water for the future.

## "Changing flappers every year saves WATER & MONEY." 2

Changing flappers each year does reduce the likelihood of leaks caused by age or wear. However, you would be better off ensuring that the chain length is set properly, the fill valve float is set at the proper height, and that you are using the correct type of flapper for your toilet.

Changing a flapper may be the obvious and simple solution to prevent water loss, but properly monitoring the water height in your toilet to detect leaks early on and saving the task of replacing your flapper for only when it's necessary will save you even more money over time.

## 3 "DYE TABLETS are an effective leak detection tool."

While inexpensive, dye tablets are unfortunately poor leak detection tools: they are difficult to find, too complicated for convenience, and there's no guarantee they'll be used correctly. To use a tablet, the user must ensure that he or she performs the test properly by placing the tablet directly in the tank (not the toilet – which is a common misunderstanding,) wait 15-20 minutes before checking (no distractions!) and then, be able to determine any slight change of color in the water.

Tablets also are limited in efficiency; they can only save you water if a leak is occurring at the time of the test – not an intermittent leak, and the leak has to be large enough to cause a noticeable amount of dye to leak into the bowl. Therefore, dye tabs are essentially incapable of helping you, even as your leak inevitably gets worse over time. Most importantly, dye tablets are useless for detecting running toilets, which are the #1 cause of wasted water in the home. To properly guard against leaks, and running toilets, the toilet should be continuously monitored with an alert system.

## "UNIVERSAL flappers work with any toilet." 4

Despite what the name suggests, universal flappers do not always seat properly on every flush valve.

Even the smallest of cracks or variances between the flapper and flush valve could allow a leak to develop, which in time could waste 50, 100, or even 200 gallons of water every day. When replacing a flapper, it's best to either use a flapper that is designed specifically for the flush valve in your toilet, or to replace both the flush valve and the flapper as a kit. While it may cost a little bit more upfront, the tighter seal will be worth it in the long run.



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