

Dripping Springs Water Supply Corporation: “Water Saving\$”

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Have you ever wondered, “I’m not using more water than I usually do, so why is my water bill higher this month than it was last month?” Well, the answer may be a small one, but it may eventually impact your wallet if not noticed and taken care of properly. Many of us, including myself, go through our busy days and never notice that our toilets may be slowly leaking. After all, there’s no noise coming from the toilet, there’s no water shooting through the air, so how is this happening? Generally, toilets have what is called a toilet flapper, though some newer toilet models have upgraded internal mechanics. A flapper is a rubber shut-off device located within your tank that opens to allow the flow of water from the tank to fill the bowl then closes allowing the tank to refill. The flapper, for the most part, performs its function very well but from time to time requires replacement and considering that a flapper is submerged its entire working career, it is prone to an early retirement. Some factors that may impact the longevity of your flapper and may damage a flapper’s ability to seal properly include tank chemicals and bowl cleaning products. Please don’t stop cleaning your toilets, we merely wish to let you know some possible causes of flapper failure. That said and being a new year, let’s all firstly check our tanks tonight making sure with a visual inspection that the flapper is fitting over the flush tube tightly. Secondly, following the visual inspection, simply add food coloring or dye tabs into the tank allowing enough time, roughly fifteen minutes, for the coloration to disperse evenly. If you see color in your bowl, then it may be time to replace your flapper. We recommend contacting a professional to replace your existing flapper if you are unsure or hesitant to complete this home improvement project by yourself.

If you want to start saving water immediately without the need of hiring a handyman or the need to purchase a new low-flow toilet, a simple way to conserve water today and reduce your monthly water bill is to add displacement within your toilet tank. Displacement, by definition, is the occupation of a submerged body within a volume which would otherwise be occupied by a fluid. See-simple, right? All that to say, add a brick, a stone, or a filled water bottle inside your toilet tank. Whichever displacement method you choose, make sure (1) it does not interfere with the mechanics inside of your tank, and (2) do not use displacement within a low-flow toilet as it may affect the functionality of the tank plus void any possible water savings due to multiple flushes. For those lucky enough who can take advantage of this water savings, you will begin to appreciate displacement as an instant water coupon, and after all, who doesn’t enjoy a coupon?

DSWSC would like to remind our members to contact our office, 512-858-7897, if you have updated your personal contact information such as email addresses, phone numbers or billing Auto-Pay credit card accounts. The DSWSC staff sends out news and alert notices including water line breaks and water outages via email and text, so please help us by providing your updated information to our staff. If you would like to stop by our office, remember that we moved to the opposite end of the building complex, suite 416. Visit our website www.drippingspringswater.com to review recent news, meeting notices and resources, all at your convenience. Thank you for taking the time to not only read this water conservation article, but for helping DSWSC serve you more effectively.