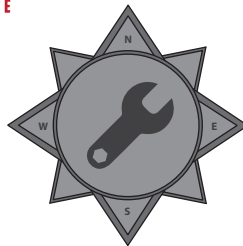


# STOP A TOILET FROM RUNNING

Have you ever seen a toilet running? No, it didn't sprout legs and take off down the driveway; I'm talking about when you flush the toilet and the water inside the tank just keeps on running. If you look in the bowl, you'll probably see water is still flowing there.

## FLIP OVER FOR YOUR NEXT CHALLENGE



### EARN THIS NUGGET

- Analyze the inside of the toilet tank and identify the parts that make this simple machine work.
- Experiment with the valve and positioning the chain to see how issues can arise.
- If you have a toilet running issue, try fixing it with your parents' permission.

LEVEL 3

PERIOD 2

TASK 3

1. First of all, open up the tank for the toilet. Don't worry this water is perfectly clean.

2. Now, familiarize yourself with the parts. In essence you'll have the following:

- A flapper valve or other valve that allows water to rush into the bowl when the handle is pushed ... give it a try.
- Next, you'll see water filling the tank again. As it does, you'll see a float rising up on top of the water.

- When the water gets to about 1" of the top of the overflow pipe (a tube that sticks straight out of the water), the water should shut off automatically.

This is a simple machine. But if it is not operating right, water can continually flow into the bowl below, costing you a lot of money on the water bill. In the case of a running toilet check the following:

1. The chain that lifts the flapper valve or other type of valve is not catching or falling into the sealing edge of the valve. An easy fix is to put a section of drinking straw around the chain.

2. The float is shutting the water off when it gets to around 1" from the top of the overflow. Too much pressure can make a valve leak.

3. Watch the mechanism work and analyze what is happening. It can even be helpful to use a food dye so you can see the water movement, you'll see the dye leeching into the bowl below, if you do get a water running situation. Very often the root cause of a running toilet is perished seals. A kit of washers for your mechanism will be available inexpensively at your local hardware store. If there is nothing obvious, but water continues to run, this is your obvious fix-all.

