

# How to Check Your Toilet's Flush Volume

**Flush volume** refers to how much water is released when a toilet is flushed. Since January 1994 all toilets sold in the U.S. must use 1.6 gallons per flush (gpf) or less. More recently, high-efficiency toilets (HETs) with a flush volume of 1.28 gpf or less have been available. Older toilets use up to seven gallons per flush! There are several ways to find the flush volume of a tank-style toilet:

The manufacturer's name and a "gpf" label often appear right behind the seat hinge on the bowl. If you don't see a gpf label, lift the tank lid and check the inside back of the toilet tank for the manufacturer's date stamp—it is usually stamped directly into the porcelain. The chart at right will help you determine your toilet's flush volume.

**Special Note for HETs:** HETs have been available on a limited basis in the U.S. since 1999, but have only been commonly available since about 2005. Some manufacturers of dual-flush HETs use the same 1.6 gpf bowl for their HETs as for their standard toilets. Thus the bowl stamp may show 1.6 gpf even though the toilet is an HET.

## Year Toilet Was Manufactured

## Gallons Per Flush

pre-1982

5-7

1982-1990

3.5

1990-1994

1.6-3.5

1994-present

1.6

~2005-present

1.28 HET (see note)

If you can't find a date on your toilet, or if the date is between 1990 and 1994 (when both 3.5 gpf and 1.6 gpf toilets were sold), you can measure the water used during a flush. **Note:** To use the following method you first need to shut off the water supply valve at the wall behind the toilet. If the valve is stiff

and can't be turned off, try holding the float mechanism in the tank in the "up" position with a string or rubber band to keep the toilet from refilling while you are performing the following steps.

**Special Note:** If your toilet tank has a large black cylinder inside, rather than the standard flush mechanism, your toilet's maximum flush volume is 1.6 gpf or less. The flush volume is usually printed on the cylinder.

