

Repair Common Toilet Problems

The most commonly used, and often most troublesome fixture in our homes is the toilet. There's always something going wrong with it. Either the toilet won't flush, or that it won't flush completely; it runs all the time, or there's water on the floor. These problems can usually be easily repaired without too much cost or labor.

Checklist:

- Needle-nose pliers
- Channel-lock pliers
- Ballcock (if necessary)
- Flush valve (if necessary)
- Wax ring (if necessary)
- Toilet (if necessary)

If your toilet won't flush, or it runs all the time

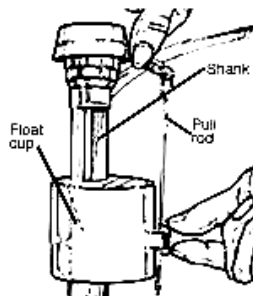
The most common reasons for these problems are:

1. The chain attached to the rubber flapper is loose. You can fix this by shortening the chain attached to the lever by removing links with your needle-nose pliers.
2. Another possible reason for your toilet not flushing or the water constantly running is that the water level in the tank isn't right. The water level should be approximately $\frac{1}{2}$ inch below the overflow pipe. (The overflow pipe is the open tube to the right of the handle.) If you find that the water level in the toilet is too high or too low, there is probably something wrong with the ballcock. The water level is adjusted at the ballcock, which is to the left of the overflow pipe.

**The most common ballcock is a *plunger-valve ballcock* with a float arm. There is another ballcock called a *float cup ballcock*, which is more water efficient.

Repairing the Ballcock

1. Bend the float arm up or down to adjust the water level if you have a *plunger-valve ballcock*. Bending the arm up will raise the water level and bending the arm down will lower the water level.
2. If you have a *float cup ballcock*, pinch the spring clip on the float cup. Doing this lets you move the float cup up and down the pull rod. Moving the float cup up will raise the water level, and moving the float cup down will lower the water level.





If you have a plunger-valve ballcock, it's a good idea to replace it with the more water efficient float-cup ballcock. It's also made of plastic, so you won't have to replace it as often as you would a plunger-valve. To learn how to replace it see ["Replace Toilet Tank Parts"](#)

If these repairs don't work:

A few other reasons as to why your toilet is having flushing problems may be that the flush valve or the ballcock needs to be replaced. To learn how to do this, see ["Replacing a ballcock and flush valve."](#)

Water around the toilet:

If the water is leaking from around the toilet, look to see if the toilet has moved. This would break the wax seal, thus enabling water to come out from under the toilet. Fixing this is as simple as sitting on the toilet and twist it back into its original position.

If simply placing the toilet where it should be doesn't stop the leak, you need to replace the wax ring or the toilet. To learn how to do this, see ["Replace your Toilet."](#)

For this information and more refer to www.truevalue.com