

When A Toilet Won't Flush

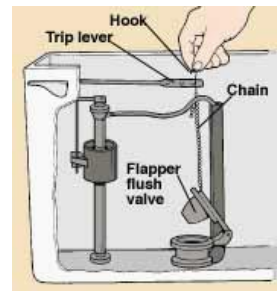
- ❖ This problem can be fixed very easily if you know what the cause of the problem is.
- ❖ One common flushing problem is when the tank doesn't empty completely unless you hold the handle down.
- ❖ Another issue may be that the tank empties completely, but the water doesn't flow into the bowl quickly, and doesn't completely discharge.
- ❖ If either of these sound familiar to you, you can fix it yourself without hiring a professional by following the proceeding steps.

Checklist:

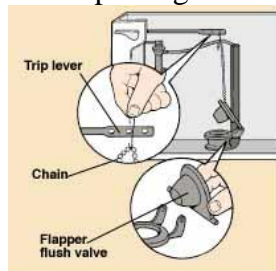
- ❑ Pliers
- ❑ Flapper flush valve and chain
- ❑ Wire coat hanger
- ❑ Pocket mirror
- ❑ Anti-lime compound
- ❑ Funnel

1. Your tank doesn't empty completely:

Often times the cause of this problem happens only with toilets that have chain-lifted flapper flush valves. The chain most likely has too much slack, restricting the height of the flapper as you activate the handle. The pressure of water on the flapper flush valve causes it to close up before the normal amount of water in the tank can empty unless you keep the flapper off the valve by holding the handle. If this is the case, the thin metal hook that attaches the end of the chain to the trip lever may have stretched some. Unhook the chain from its current hole in the trip lever, and bend it or attach it to a hole that's closer to the handle.

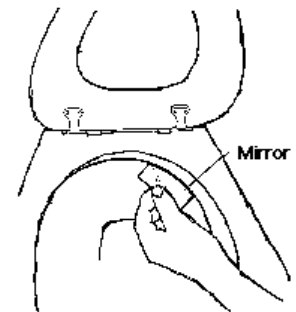


If this doesn't help, the flapper flush valve may have deteriorated. Fix this by replacing the valve and the chain.



2. Sluggish flow into bowl:

If you need to flush the toilet more than once in order to empty the bowl, its probably because of partially blocked flush holes around the rim of the bowl or a partially blocked siphon jet hole. By holding a pocket mirror under the rim of the bowl check to see whether lime deposits are clogging the flush holes.



How to clean the holes:

1. Straighten out a wire coat hanger. Use the end of the coat hanger to poke into each flush hole. Move it back and forth a few times to clear away deposits, but be careful that the hanger doesn't slip and damage your toilet.
2. Insert the hanger similarly into the siphon jet hole, and scrape the deposits from that hole.
3. Buy anti-lime compound from your local Shagbark, and mix it according to directions. Bail water from the bowl to below the siphon jet hole.
4. Remove the lid from the tank, and insert a funnel into the overflow tube. Pour the solution down that tube.
5. After one hour, flush the toilet several times.

