

RUNNING TOILET FIX

DAVE'S FIX-IT PORCH · FREE PRINTABLE CHECKLIST

DIFFICULTY: Easy · TIME: 15 to 30 min · PARTS: Inexpensive (prices vary) · TOOLS: None to pliers

SAFETY FIRST

- ☐ Turn the water OFF at the shut-off valve behind the toilet (clockwise until it stops).
- ☐ Flush to empty the tank.
- ☐ Lay a towel down.
- ☐ Set the heavy porcelain tank lid flat on a towel, not leaning on the wall.

CALL A PRO IF...

- ☐ The shut-off valve won't turn or leaks when you touch it.
- ☐ There's water on the floor around the base.
- ☐ The tank is cracked.

TWO-MINUTE TANK TEST

- ☐ Food coloring test: add a few drops to the tank, don't flush, wait about 10 minutes. Color in the bowl = FLAPPER. Flush afterward so it doesn't stain.
- ☐ Water spilling into the overflow tube = FILL VALVE.
- ☐ Neither? Check the chain.

FIX A: THE CHAIN (FREE)

- ☐ Too tight: the flapper can't seal. Too loose: the chain gets caught.
- ☐ Leave about 1/2 inch of slack.

FIX B: REPLACE THE FLAPPER

- ☐ Water off, tank drained.
- ☐ Unhook the chain from the handle arm.
- ☐ Slide the old flapper off the pegs (or slip off the ring).
- ☐ Match the size: most are 2-inch, some newer toilets use 3-inch. Bring the old one to the store or check your manual.
- ☐ Hook on the new one, set 1/2 inch of slack, turn water on, flush a few times, and watch it seat.
- ☐ Tip: check flappers periodically and replace at least every five years (EPA WaterSense).

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FIX C: THE FILL VALVE

- ☐ Lower the float so water stops about 1 inch below the top of the overflow tube.
- ☐ Still running, hissing, or sputtering? Replace the valve.
- ☐ Water off, drain, sponge out the rest. Disconnect the supply line, unscrew the locknut, install the new valve, set the height.
- ☐ Hand-tight plus a quarter turn. Don't over-tighten on porcelain.

FINISH UP

- ☐ Water back on.
- ☐ Check for drips: run a dry paper towel under the tank after an hour.