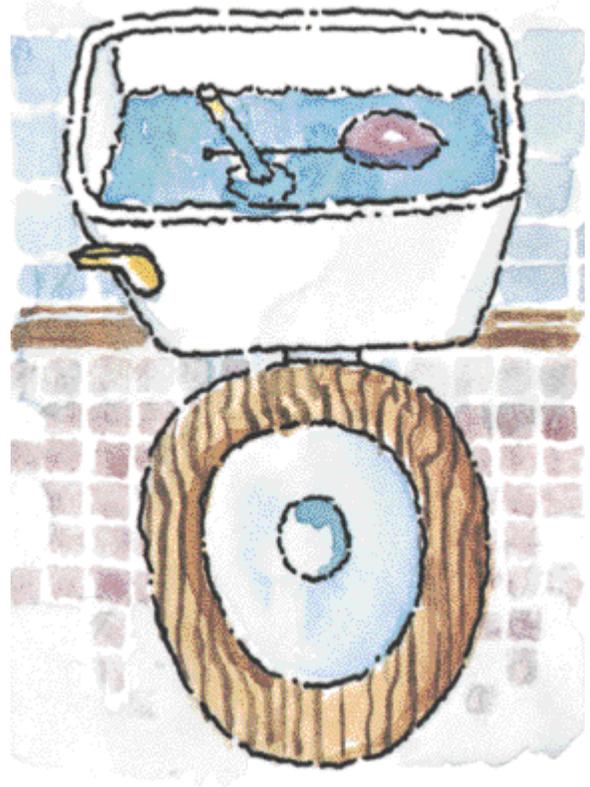
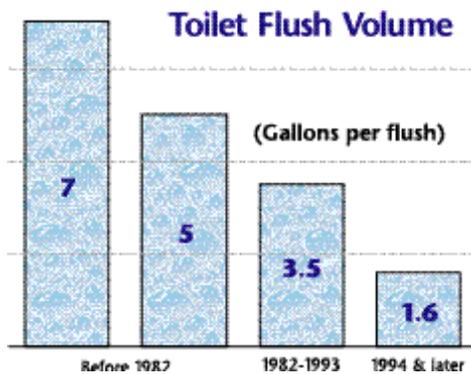


How Much Water Does Your Toilet Use?

Older Toilets Use More

Although toilets all look pretty much alike, the amount of water released by flushing varies widely from one toilet to another. Generally speaking, the older the toilet, the more water it uses. Toilets built before 1982 use 5 to 7 gallons per flush. Now, toilets are designed to flush using only 1.6 gallons of water.



Notice to Property Owners

Persons selling residential, commercial, or industrial property in either the City or County of Santa Cruz are now required by law to retrofit their buildings with low consumption (1.6 gallon) toilets before the

property changes ownership. If your toilet uses more than 1.6 gallons per flush, it will need to be replaced with a new fixture, and inspected, before the property is sold.

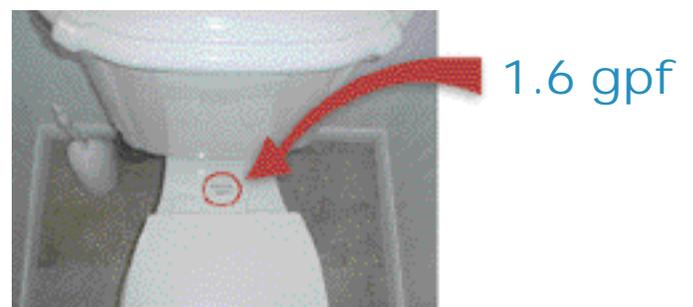
Checking Flush Volume

With so many different models of toilets installed in Santa Cruz homes, it can be difficult to tell just by looking how much water a toilet uses. But there are a few simple ways to discover the flush volume of a toilet.

First, look for a marking or label near the seat hinge. All the newer toilets have a mark that says 1.6 gpf (gallons per flush) or 6.0 lpf (liters per flush).

If you don't see such a mark, check the underside of the tank lid or the back wall inside the tank for a date stamp. The year the toilet was made is often stamped into the porcelain. The chart above shows how much water the toilet is likely to use, based on its age.

There are other ways to check flush volume, if there is no mark on the outside or a date stamp on the inside. The following describes two



simple methods you can use to test your toilet's water consumption:

1. Toilet Tank Capacity Method
2. Water Meter Method

Before you begin, make sure there are no bottles, bricks, or other devices placed in the tank to save water. If you do find such a device, remove it before proceeding.

Toilet Tank Capacity Method

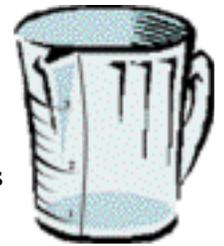
Step 1

- Turn off the water supply valve to the toilet. (*Use caution -some old valves may start to leak when turned back on*).
- Remove the tank lid. Look for a factory set water line on the inside back wall of the tank. If no line is present, mark the water level with a pencil.
- Flush the toilet.



Step 2

- Using a quart or gallon container, refill the tank to the factory set water line or to the pencil mark. Note how many gallons of water it takes to refill the toilet tank.
- Add another one-half (1/2) gallon (*the amount of water normally used to fill the bowl while the tank is filling up*) to determine the total gallons per flush.
- Open water supply valve when finished.



Your Toilet:

$$\frac{\text{Gallons to refill}}{\text{Total gallons per flush}} + 0.5 =$$

Water Meter Method

This method is for properties that are individually metered.

Step 1

- First, make sure no water is being used anywhere on the property. With all the fixtures turned off, locate your water meter. Most meters are near the curb in front of the property.
- Remove the meter box lid. Inside you will find one of three types of meters - the most common type looks like the one in this picture.
- Note the location of the red dial hand.



Step 3

- Match the movement of the dial hand in the following table to determine the amount of water your toilet uses per flush.

Rotation of dial hand	Gallons per flush
Less than 1/4 	1.6
About 1/2 	3.5
About 2/3 	5.0
Nearly a full rotation	7.0

The newer water meters have no dial hand, but you can still use this method.

- Read the last two digits to the right of the decimal point.
- Flush.
- Read again. Subtract the first reading from the second and multiply the result by 7.5 to get gallons per flush.

Step 2

- Go inside the building and flush the toilet once. After the flush cycle is complete, go back outside and read the meter again to see how far the red dial hand moved. Each full rotation of the dial hand is equal to one cubic foot or 7.5 gallons of water.

