

How to Fix a Leaky Toilet:

First, determine the type of toilet you have.



Pressurized Toilet:

Inside this toilet is a sealed tank. When water is fed from the water line, the air inside the tank is compressed. When the toilet is flushed the water is forced out with the pressure of the compressed air. This stream of water cleans all the waste from the bowl much more efficiently than the water from gravity toilets. These toilets are known for having low maintenance, low water consumption, and fewer clogs.

If your pressurized toilet has a leak, it is recommended that you call a licensed plumber to repair it.

Gravity Toilet

A gravity toilet is the most common type of toilet. This type of toilet uses the force of gravity to flush. When you flush, water from the tank is released into the bowl and into a siphon tube. The force of the siphon ensures all of the water and waste in the bowl is sucked out.

Gravity toilets come with either a ballcock or a float ball (see p 2).

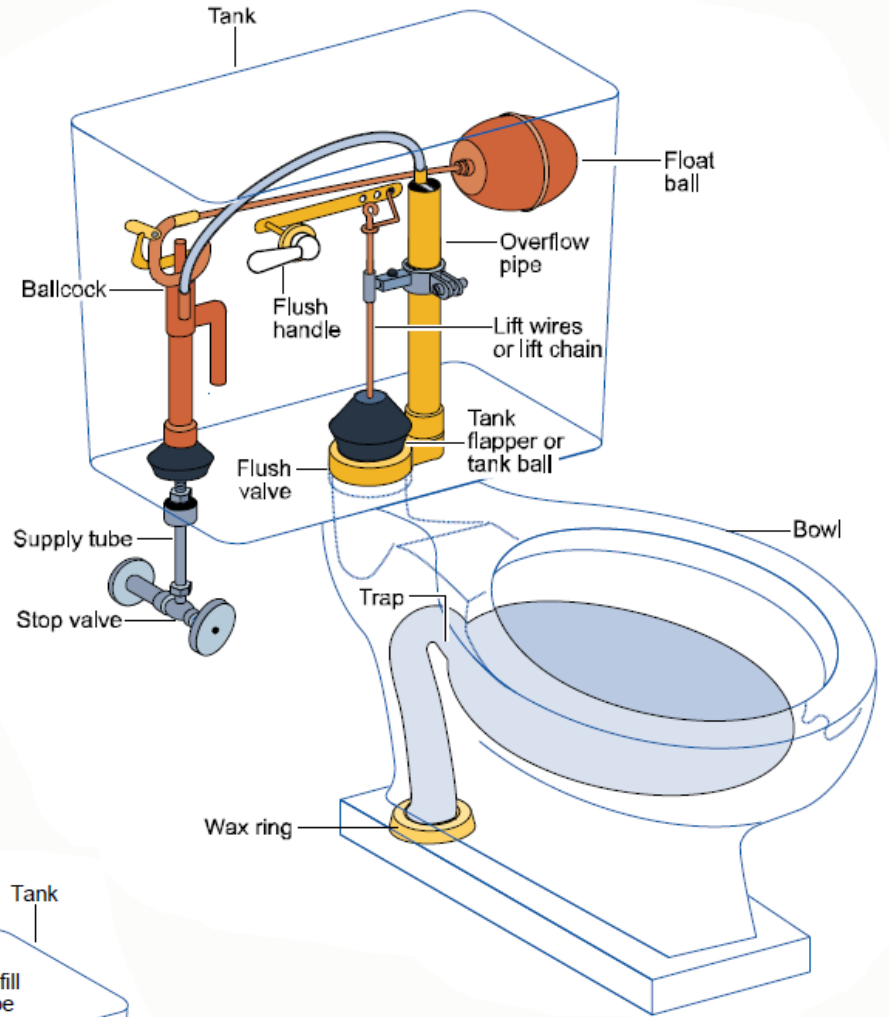


***Note:** Remember to turn off the water prior to beginning any type of repair. Always check again for leaks after the repair is done. Use dye tabs or food coloring to test for leaks.

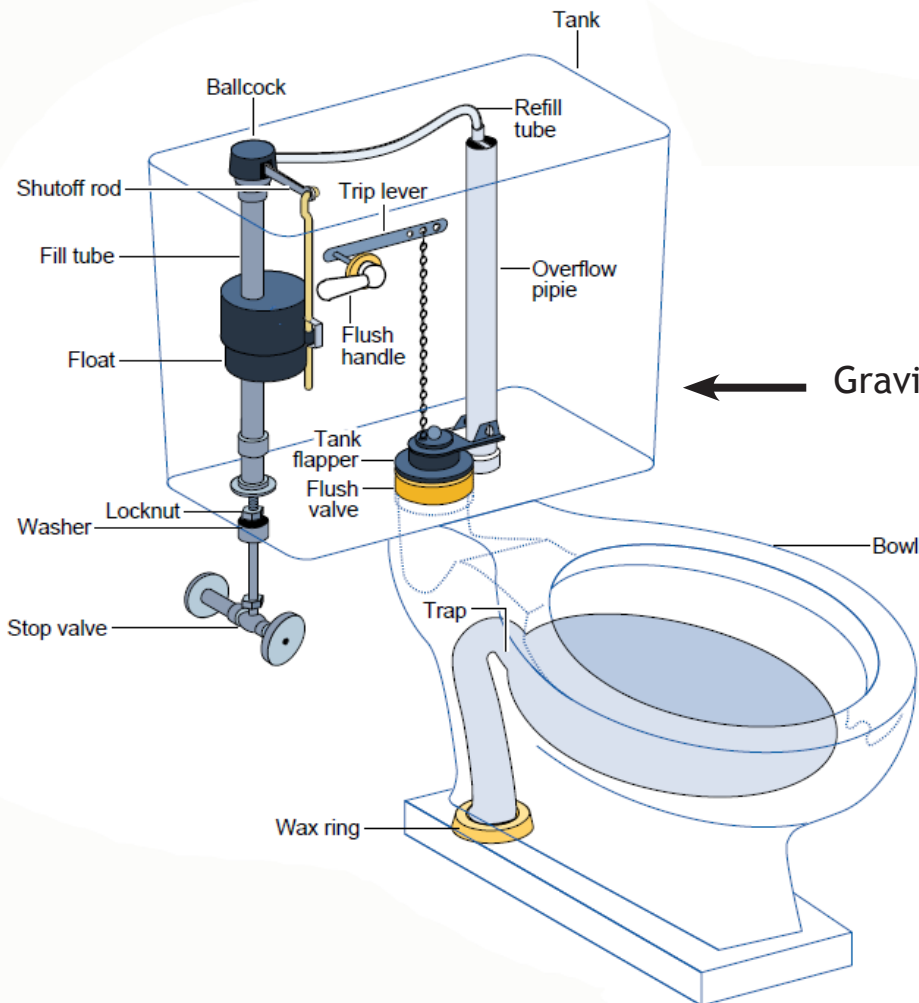


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Gravity Toilet with a Float Ball



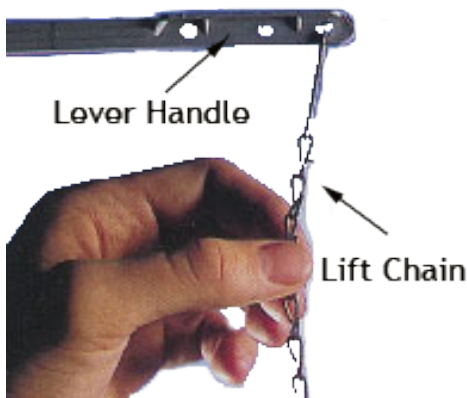
Gravity Toilet with a Ballcock



Fixing Lift-Chain and Handle Problems

If the toilet runs continuously, there could be kinks in the lift chain or lime buildup on the handle mounting nut.

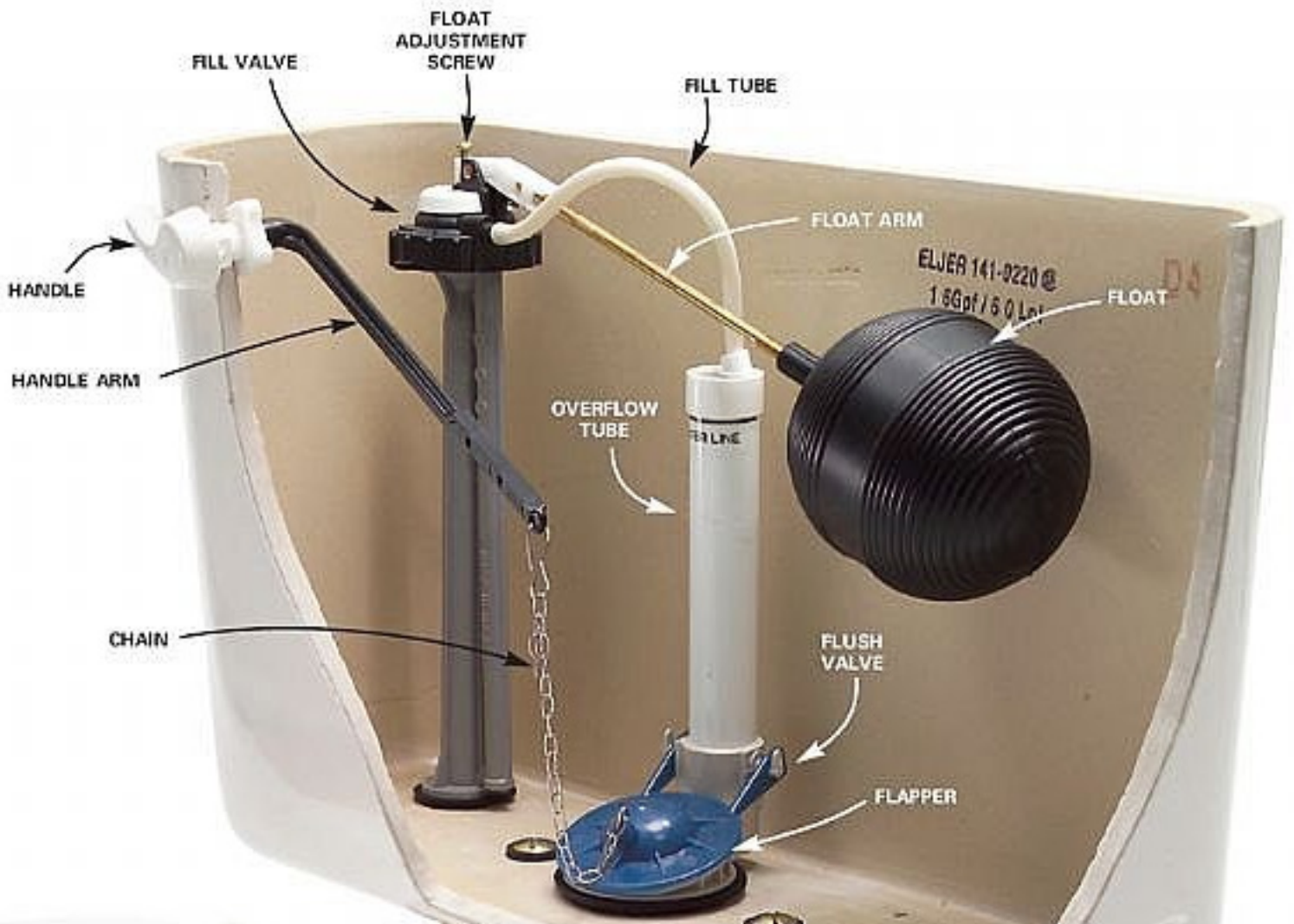
- As a first step, clean and adjust toilet handle and lift chain.
- The mounting nut in the handle has reversed threads; loosen nut by turning clockwise with an adjustable wrench.
- Scrub handle parts with a brush dipped in vinegar to remove lime buildup.



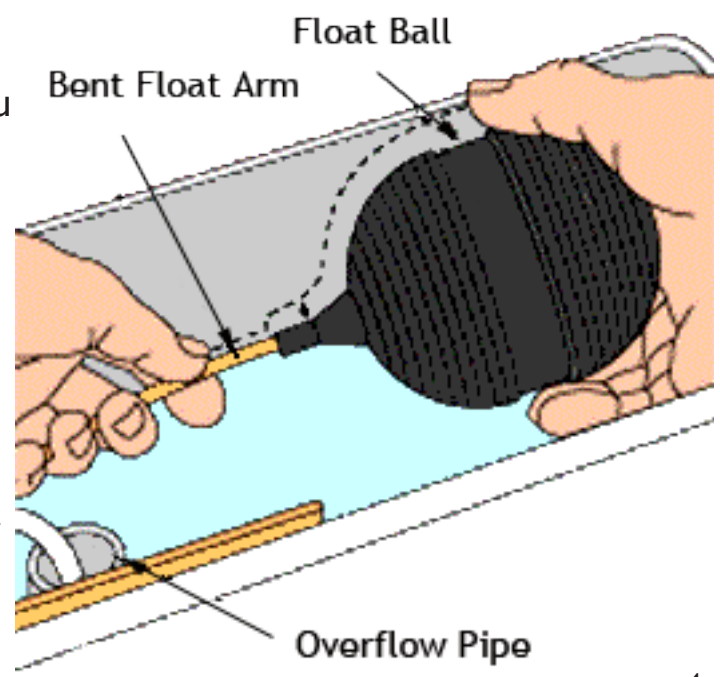
- Adjust the lift chain so it hangs straight from handle lever, with about one-half inch of slack.
- Hook the chain in a different hole in the handle lever or remove links with needlenose pliers to remove excess slack in the chain.
- If the lift chain is broken, replace it.

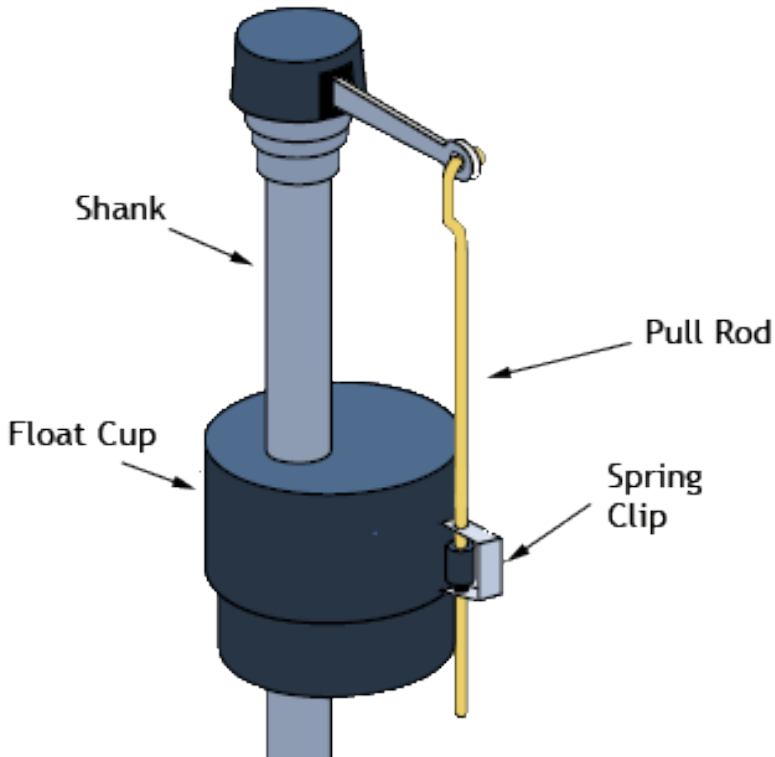
Correcting the Tank Water Level

- Check the level of the water. It should be about 1 inch below the top of the overflow pipe.
- If the water level is OK, you might have a flapper valve or plunger ball leak (see p5)
- If the water level is not where it should be, you will have to adjust it.
- Check for adjustment screws on top of the fill valve (see p4).
- If there is a screw in the center of the fill valve, adjust it clockwise to decrease water level in the tank.
- Depress the flush lever to empty tank and wait for it to refill.



- If the water level has not dropped, you can then bend the float arm.
- Gently bend the connecting rod attached to the float ball down, so that the supply valve shuts off when the water is at the proper level.
- If the floatball is waterlogged unscrew it and replace it with a new one.
- If this adjustment does not help, the ballcock assembly may need repairs or replacing (see p6).





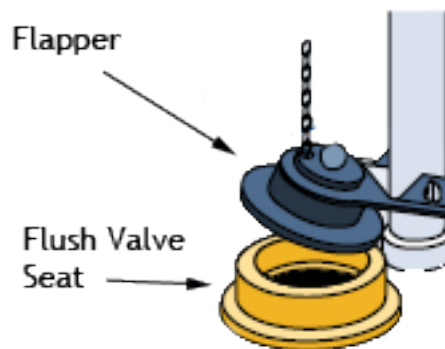
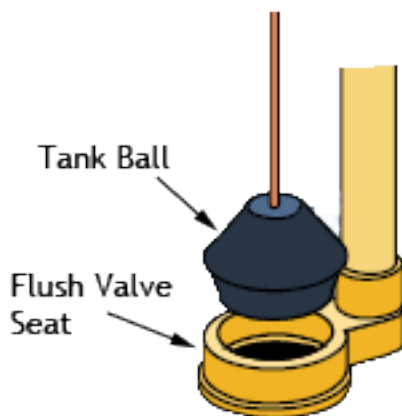
- Some toilets have floatcup/ballcock assemblies.
- These can be adjusted easily by gently pinching the spring clip on the metal rod assembly and sliding the clip down to lower the water level of the tank.
- If this fails, the ballcock must be replaced (see p5).

Flapper Valve and Plunger Ball Leaks

The plunger ball and the flapper valve perform the same functions although they are different mechanisms. However, these cannot be interchanged.

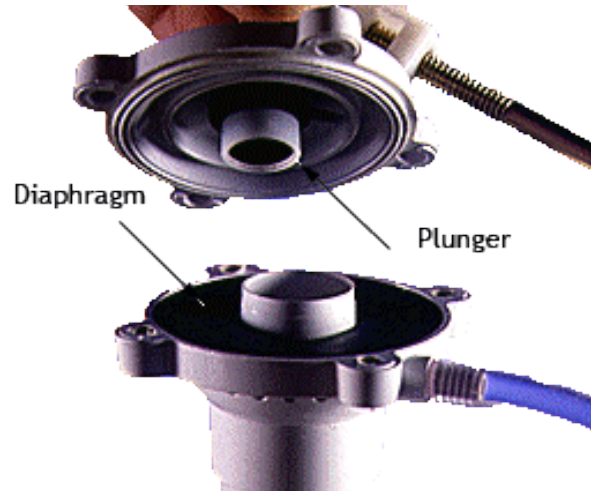
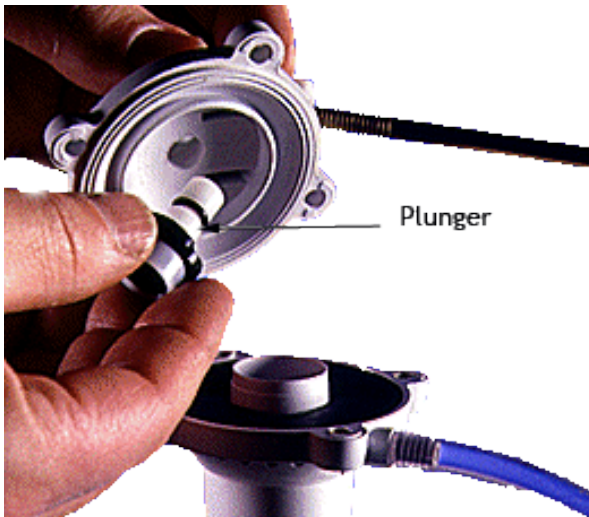
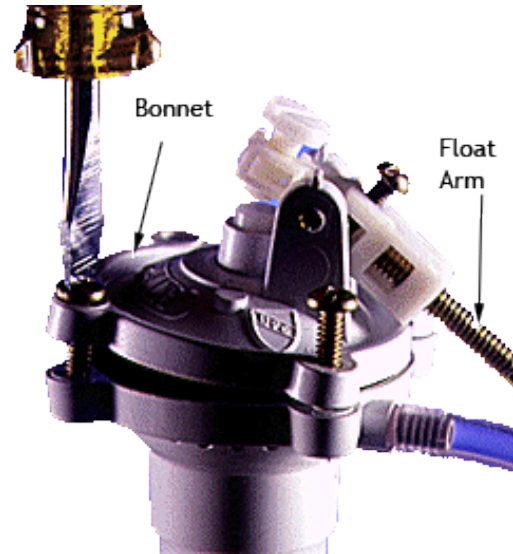
Both flapper and plunger-ball leaks can cause toilets to run constantly or intermittently.

- To check the flapper or plunger-ball or other flush stopper for leaks, use a long screwdriver or other thin object to apply pressure on the flapper.
- If water stops running upon depression of flapper, the flapper must be changed.
- Also, check this seating surface (flush valve seat) and possibly resurface or replace it.
- If water does not stop running upon depression of flapper, the ballcock must be replaced or fixed. (See p6.)



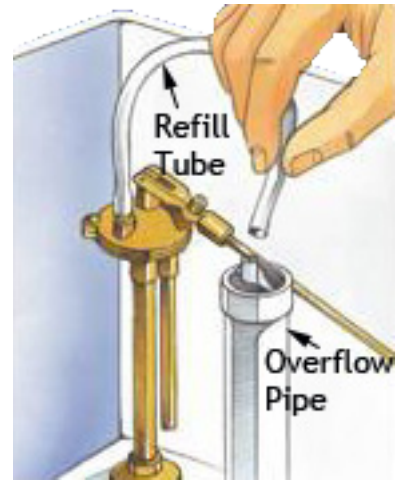
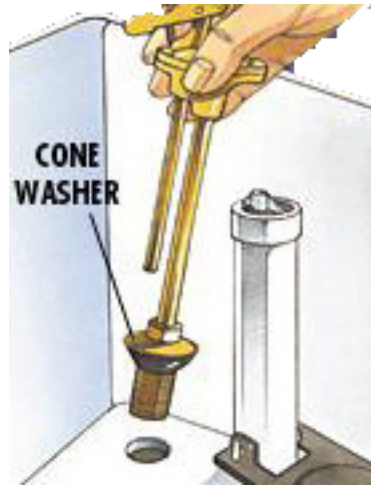
Troubleshooting Ballcock Leaks

- Remove the screws from the bonnet
- Lift off ballcock float arm with bonnet attached. Check diaphragm and valve plunger for wear.
- Replace parts that are stiff or cracked. If assembly is too worn, replace entire ballcock.
- Kits containing replaceable parts of the ballcock assembly are available at hardware and plumbing stores.



Replacing the Ballcock Assembly

- To replace ballcock assembly, empty the tank completely and using an adjustable wrench disconnect the supply pipe or hose located beneath the toilet tank (see p7).
- Remove the locknut and washer and lift out the ballcock assembly. You may want to take the whole unit to your plumbing supply store to assure a proper match.
- Screw the new unit into place, put the refill tube into the overflow pipe, and reattach the float ball.
- Refill the tank and check to make sure the water level is one inch below the level of the overflow pipe and that all parts are working smoothly.



Float-cup Ballcock

- Remove the cap.
- Push down on shaft and turn to left to remove bonnet.
- Examine inside of valve, and clean out any sediment.
- Replace valve seal. If assembly is too worn, replace the entire ballcock.

