

THE TOILET PAPERS - VOL. 1

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FLUSHING OUT THE FACTS ON WATER EFFICIENT TOILETS

It was in 1994 that the National Energy Policy Act (H.R. 776) went into effect requiring that toilets and a variety of other products meet established energy and water efficiency standards. That is when 1.6 gallon per flush toilets became a federal standard for any new construction or remodel. The good news is that the 1.6 gallon low-flow toilets have been shown to reduce toilet water use by 23 to 46 percent.



We spend 3 years of our life using the toilet, so make sure you have a good seat.

The bad news? Unfortunately, the first round of low-flow toilets were not always well designed. Many manufacturers simply made the tank smaller or designed the flapper to close more quickly. Consumer complaints were common.

Luckily, many manufacturers have been working to improve their products, but like everything else, some work better than others.

Confirming one of the worst fears of the water industry, a study performed by the University of Arizona Water Resources Research Center found many of the 1.6 gallon toilets lost their efficiency as they aged or had flappers replaced. Many were shown to eventually use 2 to 3.5 gallons and sometimes even more.

Keeping tabs on toilets with the best ratings

was difficult since models are constantly changing. Thankfully, in just the last few years, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) developed the *WaterSense* labeling program to help consumers select water efficient choices. The program is similar to their *Energy Star* labeling that highlights energy efficient products.

According to EPA, "The *WaterSense* label is used on toilets that are certified by independent laboratory testing to meet rigorous criteria for both performance and efficiency." Design advances enable *WaterSense* labeled toilets to save water with no trade-off in flushing power. In fact, many perform better than standard toilets in consumer testing.

Whether remodeling a bathroom, constructing a new home, or simply replacing an old, leaky toilet that is wasting money and water, installing a *WaterSense* labeled toilet is a water-efficient option worth considering. **Look for the *WaterSense* label** on your next purchase or visit www.epa.gov/watersense for more information.



Evolution of Low-flow Toilets

Present	<1.6 gal.
1990's	1.6 gal.
1980's	3.5 gal.
1960's	5.5 gal.
Pre-1960	7 gal.

Toilet Trivia

Replacing 3.5 gallon toilets with **WaterSense** labeled toilets can save a household 12,000 gallons of water each year.

DUAL FLUSH TOILETS LET YOU CHOOSE HOW LOW YOU FLOW

High efficiency toilets or HET's are the latest generation of toilets you'll find in the market. They have earned this title by using at least 20% less than the current federal standard of 1.6 gallons. How do toilets perform with such little water? Design advances such as larger traps and improved flushing technologies have brought enhanced performance with less

water. Also, many are **dual flush** toilets meaning they have buttons or levers that allow you to use one option for liquid waste, another for solid waste.

Purchase **WaterSense** labeled dual flush models and watch your savings overflow! American Standard, Caroma, and Toto are just some of the manufacturers who offer them.



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