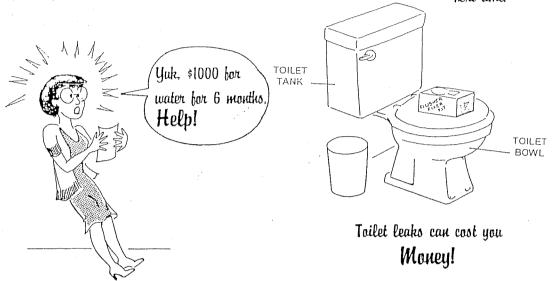
Did you suddenly get a Big Water Bill?

Do you want to avoid getting a Big Water Bill?

It's almost always the toilet.

A bill of \$1000 for 6 months is nothing, wait until next time.



Most toilets work fine for awhile. If you don't watch them though, like anything else, they can develop problems and you can get a large bill. Remember, a \$600 or \$700 bill for a leaking toilet is **not** uncommon.

Check Points:

Wait twenty (20) minutes after the last flush. Then;

- (1) Look closely at the surface of the water in the toilet bowl. Is it moving? Is it wavy? Is it rippling?
- (2) Bend over close to the toilet tank. Do you hear a slight hiss or drip?
- (3) Take the top off the toilet tank. In most toilets there is a vertical pipe (called an overflow pipe) in the middle of the tank. Is the water level over the top of this pipe?
- (4) Put some food coloring in the toilet tank and stir. Wait five (5) minutes. Did the coloring come down into the toilet bowl? If you hear a hiss or see waves in the toilet bowl, but no food coloring, put one and only one drop of the coloring in the center of the overflow pipe. Did the coloring come down now?

If you answered yes to any of these questions, you have a running toilet—the kind that can cost you A LOT OF MONEY. A leaking toilet is just like turning the faucet on and walking away. A toilet running 24 hours per day, every day for six (6) months will result in a large bill.

How do you fix it? In some cases it's easy, in others it's not. You can probably get advice from your hardware store or call your local plumber. After repair, be sure to recheck the toilet to be certain it's fixed. Even plumbers do not always get it right the first time.

If you have a leak, you can pay to have it fixed, or pay us a lot more later.

Jovernment of the District of Columbia

Department of Public Works