Purchasing a Toilet

Most toilets are sold in two pieces; the tank and bowl have both been redesigned for low-flow models to meet maximum efficiency. Do not place a new tank on an old bowl.

Tank

Typically, the width of a high efficiency tank is smaller than previous models. If the wall behind your current toilet is unfinished or not painted, bring the dimensions of your current toilet with you to the store and measure the width of the new toilet so that there will be no surprises.

Bowl

The bowl usually comes in two styles, standard and elongated. However, if you do not intend to change the bathroom flooring, then the bowl footprint, or the floor area covered by the base of the toilet, is important. You do not want to buy a new toilet with a footprint that is smaller or shaped differently from your old toilet in case the floor underneath is unfinished.

Cost

The cost ranges between models, styles and colours. However, most toilets will pay for themselves in savings to your water bill in three to five years.

Think about it

- When purchasing a toilet, ask family or friends who have installed efficient models for their recommendations.
- Base your purchasing on newer models; every toilet manufacturer has redesigned their product line to meet customer demands and to produce efficient, problem-free toilets.
- Toilets are tested for maximum flushing performance at **www.map-testing.com** where you can see the ratings of over 2,000 toilet models.

Summer drought is the 'new normal'. So is managing our water supply better. This brochure series offers tips and tools to make 'living to the new normal' easier.

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Thinking of Replacing your toilet?

The BC Building Code was amended in 2011 requiring all new toilets installed in BC to be dual flush or high efficiency (<4.8L per flush). That's even lower than "low-flow" 6L models.

It is estimated that the average family home will save 80,000 litres of water by switching to a low-flow toilet. Now an additional 20% to 30% of water can be saved by using a dual flush or high efficiency toilet.

Low Flush

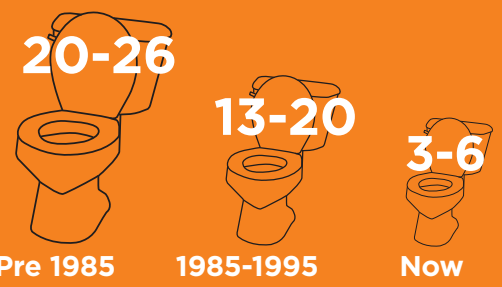
Low-flow toilets use 6 litres of water per flush; if you wish to save even more water consider upgrading to a high efficiency or dual flush toilet.

High Efficiency

High Efficiency toilets use 4.8 litres of water per flush or less, using pressure assist technology.

Dual Flush

Dual flush models feature two buttons. One button releases three litres of water and the second button releases six litres of water.



Average litres of water used by toilets per flush

Other Considerations

Insulation

Many older toilets have a form of insulation. They have a space between the inside of the tank and the outside of the tank to prevent the outside from sweating or collecting a thin layer of water droplets. Because older model toilets use upwards of 26 litres of water per flush, frequent flushing means frequent changes in temperature, resulting in water perspiration on the outside of the tank. Most low-flow toilets do not feature insulation because, with only 6 litres of water per flush, the temperature change is not as drastic.

Glazing

When shopping for your toilet, ask if the bowl has been glazed through the trap way. This will allow materials to move through the trapway with less friction.