

Think about it

When purchasing a toilet, ask family or friends who have installed low-flow 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.

The Canadian Waste Water Association tests toilets yearly. For a condensed view of the report and other helpful information, visit the Regional District of Durham Ontario's website at:
www.region.durham.on.ca/toilettest



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Town of Qualicum Beach

Low-Flow Toilets



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Working Towards a Sustainable Future

Purchasing a Toilet

The Basic Information

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 low-flow 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 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 themselves off in savings to your water bill in three to five years.

Toilet Design

There are several different designs or techniques used by low-flow toilet manufacturers. The most common is the traditional gravity flush toilet. When low-flow toilets first came on the market they did not meet consumer expectations, but in recent years the whole system has been redesigned to meet maximum performance. Gravity (also called siphon) toilets are normally the least expensive. Other types of designs include pressure assist, dual flush, and flapperless toilets.

Other Considerations

Suggestions for improving the overall performance of your toilet.

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 used upwards of 26 litres of water per flush, frequent flushing meant 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 trap way with less friction.



Dual Flush

Water Saved

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

How it Works

Dual flush models feature two buttons. One button releases three litres of water and the second button releases six litres of water. Dual flush models are the law in Australia and Singapore.

Average water used by toilets per flush:

Pre 1985	26-20 Litres
1985-1995	20-13 Litres
Low-Flow	6 Litres