

toilet tank banks



It does seem a bit crazy to flush drinking water down the toilet. If you want to reduce that use, you can buy and install a new low-flow toilet, but that will cost you upwards of \$400 which would take a long time to pay for itself.

There are also \$20 [dual-flush retrofit kits](#) that can save a lot of water. Dual-flush kits allow you to retrofit your toilet so you can press the lever down for a lighter flush to get rid of liquids and pull the lever up for a normal flush to get rid of any solids. Dual-flush kits say they can be installed in 10 minutes and will work on any toilet, but sometimes the reality doesn't quite meet the advertising.

An easier and less expensive option is a toilet tank bank. They cost under \$1 and can fit any toilet (as long as it doesn't have a pressurized-flush system. In this case the tank is filled with a plastic sealed container with no water visible).

A toilet tank bank is basically a water balloon that hangs inside the tank and displaces water with each flush. Every time the toilet tank fills up for the next flush,

the water balloon takes up space so less water is needed.

This is the same as putting a brick in the tank to displace water; however bricks break down over time and can damage your toilet. Some people put a water-filled plastic jug instead in their tank, but those are big and inflexible and can interfere with the working mechanics of the toilet.

A toilet tank bank can be filled just as much as you need for that toilet and hung in the corner out of the way.

Fun fact

At Consumer Reports the way they test a toilet's "flushability" is by stuffing firm tofu into nylon bags to make fake poops. Then they flush the tofu bags down the toilet.

If you're curious about how much water you might save, use our [Toilet tank bank calculator](#).



How-to Section



How to install a toilet tank bank

- Water savings per decade: **Up to \$234 and 14,600 gallons** assuming the tank bank is filled 50% and the toilet is flushed 8 times daily
 - Level of difficulty: **Easy**
 - Cost: Under **\$1**
 - How long it takes: **A minute**
 - Tools & materials: [Toilet tank bank](#), **water**
1. Pop open the cap of the tank bank and fill it up with as much water as you think you will want.

Tip: If your toilet uses 1.6 gallons per flush (generally the toilet will be labeled with how many gallons it uses per flush), then fill the tank bank about halfway. If your toilet uses more water, fill the tank bank more.

2. Squeeze the air out of the tank bank so it doesn't float at the top of the tank. Close the cap.



3. Take off the top of the toilet tank, and hang the tank bank on the inside of the toilet out of the way of the flushing mechanism.



4. Flush the toilet a few times to make sure the tank bank doesn't interfere with the working mechanisms. Move the tank bank if it seems to be in the way.
5. If your toilet now doesn't flush all the solids down with the tank bank, empty some water out of the tank bank to

make the flush more powerful. If the toilet is working well, you can fill the tank bank up more and test the flush again.



Tip: Another way to save water is to obey the rule, “If it’s yellow, let it mellow. If it’s brown, flush it down.”

If you follow this practice, every few years the minerals will build up in the main “siphon jet” (the siphon jet at the front bottom of the toilet bowl). You’ll realize that’s happening because the flush will get weaker over time. In this case take a screwdriver and gently knock the minerals out of the siphon jet hole. (If you have a problem finding this hole, stand facing the toilet, lean forward and look back down toward your feet. The two inch wide hole is at the very bottom in the front of the bowl).
