

# How To Check Your Toilet's Flush Volume

FLUSH VOLUME refers to how much water is released when a toilet is flushed. Since January 1994 all toilets sold in California must use 1.6 gallons per flush (gpf) or less. Older toilets use up to *seven* gallons per flush! To qualify for this rebate, you must be replacing an older toilet with a new 1.6 gpf toilet. There are several ways to find the flush volume of a tank-style toilet:

## 1 Look for a 1.6 gpf label or check the manufacturer's date stamp.

The manufacturer's name and a 1.6 gpf label often appear right behind the seat hinge on the bowl. If you don't see a 1.6 gpf label, lift the tank lid and check the inside back of the toilet tank for the manufacturer's date stamp – it is usually stamped directly into the porcelain. The chart at right will help you determine your toilet's flush volume.

Year Toilet was Manufactured	Gallons-per-Flush
pre-1982 .....	5-7
1982-1990 .....	3.5
1990-1994 .....	1.6-3.5
1994-present .....	1.6

## 2 Call your local water agency for a free home water audit.

Visit [www.sbwater.org](http://www.sbwater.org) for the name and number of your water purveyor.

## 3 Measure the water used when your toilet flushes.

If you can't find a date on your toilet, or if the date is between 1990 and 1994 (when both 3.5gpf and 1.6 gpf toilets were sold), you can measure the water used during a flush.

**Note:** To use the following method you first need to shutoff the water supply valve at the wall behind the toilet. If the valve is stiff and can't be turned off, try holding the float mechanism in the tank in the "up" position with a string or rubber band to keep the toilet from refilling while you are performing the following steps.

**Special Note:** If your toilet tank has a large black cylinder inside, rather than the standard flush mechanisms, you have a 1.6 gpf pressure-assisted toilet.

### Step 1:

- Close the water supply valve
- Take the lid off the tank
- Mark the current water level on the tank and the bowl (by using masking tape, etc.)

### Step 2:

- Flush the toilet (it won't refill because the water valve is turned off)

### Step 3:

- Find a 1-gallon jug (like a milk carton or a measured bucket) and fill it with water.

### Step 4:

- Start refilling the tank to the water level mark in the tank of the toilet (count how many jugs of water it takes to reach the mark)

### Step 5:

- Start refilling the bowl to the water level mark in the bowl of the toilet (count how many jugs of water it takes to reach the mark)

### Step 6:

- **The total number of jugs from steps #4 and #5 equals the flush volume of your toilet.**
- Remember to turn your water supply valve back on!