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How to adjust toilet flush button

Here's what happens when you flush a goldfish down the toilet.LUIS PADILLA-Fotografia/ShutterstockWhat Happens When You Flush a Goldfish Down the ToiletIf you think you're releasing your goldfish back into the wild when you flush it down the toilet, think again. You're most likely killing it within a couple of minutes because of the way city water is treated. That's if they make it that far. Typically the cold water of the toilet puts the fish into shock. These are 15 things you should never flush down the toilet.Releasing a goldfish into a pond or a lake isn't any better. It's actually a terrible thing for ecosystems. Goldfish in Minnesota are threatening marsh habitats and have grown to the size of dinner plates.Goldfish can harm native fish, they reproduce quickly and can root up native plants while searching for food. Plus, aquarium fish can carry diseases that will kill native fish. Goldfish have no natural predator so they thrive in open water and grow to enormous sizes. In 2013, a 4.2-pound, 1 1/2-foot-long goldfish appeared in the Lake Tahoe basin in Nevada.Discover some cool backyard ponds you can add to your home.Goldfish are part of the carp family and anyone who has encountered carp before can tell you how terrible they are for lake ecosystems. Carp feed on fish eggs, making it tougher for native species to continue, and they contribute to algae growth by releasing nutrients that promote algae growth.Rory Eye/ShutterstockWhat Should You Do If You Don't Want Your Goldfish Anymore?Wildlife officials suggest people donate their goldfish rather than introduce them to local lakes, ponds and rivers. You can search for local places to donate goldfish. The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service also suggests you can donate a goldfish to a school. You can also ways euthanize a goldfish after consulting with a local veterinarian or pet retailer.How Big of a Problem are Goldfish?The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service estimates invasive species incur \$120 billion in damages in the country.Find out how a toilet works in the video below and learn what the best toilet paper is for your plumbing. Video Playback Not Supported Toilets that run constantly or don't flush properly are a common problem. Solutions include:Adjust the float to control the water level in the tank.Replace the flapper valve at the bottom of the tank.Adjust the chain length between the handle and flapper valve.Replace corroded or broken chain. Photo: infoniagra.comAverage Americans are flushing money down the drain. Oh, maybe not literally money—but most US homes still have one or more older models that waste a phenomenal amount of water compared to today's new low-flush toilets.Toilets use more water than any other appliance or fixture in the home, with older toilets using between 3.5 and 7 gallons of water per flush, according to the Environmental Protection Agency's WaterSense program.Related: 20 Easy Ways You Can Go Green TodayThe EPA estimates that if all of the inefficient toilets in homes were converted to WaterSense high-efficiency models, Americans could save more than 640 billion gallons of water per year—the equivalent to 15 days of flow over Niagara Falls. Since 1994, federal law has mandated that new household toilets use no more than 1.6 gallons of water per flush. The early low-flush toilets certainly helped save money, but today's high-efficiency models are even more effective, with WaterSense models using just 1.28 gallons of water per flush.Illustration: signaturehardware.comAccording to EPA figures, since the WaterSense program's inception in 2006, consumers have saved more than 287 billion gallons of water and over \$4.7 billion in water and energy bills by switching to more efficient toilets. Replacing even one toilet can make a big difference: According to the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB), one high-efficiency toilet used by a family of four can save 8,760 gallons of water per year.When making the switch to a more efficient toilet, there are several options to consider:• Single-Flush High-Efficiency Models. A single-flush high-efficiency toilet uses the same amount of water for every flush. This is the most common model and generally the least expensive, with prices as low as \$100. • Dual-Flush High-Efficiency. A dual-flush toilet offers the user two options for flushing, one for a full flush (designed for solid waste) and another low-output flush designed for fluid-only waste. This type of dual-flush system can average out water usage to as low as .96 gallons per flush. Dual-flush models generally range in price from \$200 to \$1,000.Brondell Dual Flush Toilet. Photo: treehugger.com• Pressure-Assisted Toilets. These models use pressurized air to propel water through the system with greater force and therefore can work with as little as .8 gallons per flush. These typically require a separate electrical hookup for the pump and can range in price from \$300 to \$2,000. • Composting Toilets. Also known as biological toilets, these models use little or no water and do not release waste into sewage system or septic tank. These toilets collect liquid and solid wastes, holding them in storage bins either underneath the toilet or in a separate storage tank, breaking the waste down into compost. Used properly, composting toilets are sanitary and odor-free but may not be suitable for urban environments. Prices for composting toilets vary greatly, depending on capacity and style, but range from \$350 to as high as \$7,500.Related: Top Tips for Saving Water in the GardenRegardless of which option you choose, many local utilities and state agencies offer rebate programs for switching out older models with new low-flush toilets. Nearly all major bathroom fixture manufacturers offer some form of high-efficiency toilet, and the EPA site lists more than 1,500 models that qualify for WaterSense certification.The savings can be impressive. Over the course of a lifetime, an average person flushes the toilet nearly 140,000 times, according to the EPA. Installing a WaterSense toilet allows a family to save 4,000 gallons per year—about a third of a million gallons during a lifetime.The EPA further estimates that a family of four that has replaced its home's older toilets with WaterSense-labeled models will, on average, save more than \$90 per year in reduced water utility bills, adding up to \$2,000 over a toilet's average lifetime. Now that is a lot of dough that doesn't have to be flushed down the drain!For more on energy-efficient upgrades, consider:The New Wave of Programmable Thermostats Quick Tip: Make Your Fireplace More Efficient Tankless Hot Water Heaters: Should I or Shouldn't I? Whether due to the last of the toilet paper being used up or a moment of forgetfulness (or laziness), every so often homeowners flush something they shouldn't—something that wasn't designed to disintegrate as well. When the "unsinkable" happens, they're left with an unwelcome mess, a visit from the plumber, and a hefty bill. Even if it doesn't cause the toilet to overflow immediately, you may be harming your home's pipes in the process and contributing to an even bigger problem in the local sewer system. Avoid all that inconvenience and damage by making sure you never flush these 10 things down the toilet. Related: 5 Most Common Toilet Troubles and How to Fix Them Even when they're advertised as "flushable," most moist towelettes should never go down the toilet. The wipes don't disintegrate in water, leading to clogs and (if you don't catch them with a plunger in time) backed-up sewer lines. + There's a good reason public bathrooms post signs warning users not to flush feminine hygiene products. Pads and tampons, which are designed to expand and retain fluids, won't dissolve after being flushed down the pipes. To properly dispose of personal items, wrap them in toilet paper and throw them in the garbage can. Related: Your Top 10 Bathroom Dilemmas—Solved Paper towel manufacturers often tout the strength of their products. But there's a downside to all this durability: Because the paper is meant to stay strong when exposed to liquids, it won't break down like toilet paper does, making it likely to clog the toilet. Always throw used paper towels in the trash. Not even a plumber relishes fishing used condoms out of clogged sewer lines. These latex prophylactics won't biodegrade for years, so don't introduce them into the water treatment system. Instead, wrap a used condom in toilet paper and dispose of it in a waste receptacle. Related: No Plunger Needed: 7 Easier Ways to Clear a Clog A single disposable diaper—even in a tiny newborn size—is likely to clog the commode. To get rid of a dirty diaper, roll it up and secure the ball with the diaper's adhesive strips. Slip the diaper into a small plastic bag, then toss the whole thing into the trash. After you've cleaned your ears or dabbed away errant streaks of eyeliner, dropping your used cotton swab in the toilet may seem convenient. Resist the urge! Cotton swabs are notorious for getting stuck in drain pipe bends and catching everything else you flush, resulting in a huge clog. Related: 10 Ways Your Home Is Telling You to Call a Plumber Kitty litter—especially the "clumping" varieties—contain clay and sand that bind to moisture. When Fluffy does his business, the moisture transforms into hard chunks that can clog toilets and pipes. Instead of flushing, slip the waste and soiled litter into a disposable bag and secure it shut before throwing away. If you uncover a hidden dryer sheet in your sweater sleeve or pant leg, refrain from flushing it down the toilet. Dryer sheets don't dissolve in water, and they're also loaded with harmful synthetic chemicals that can seep into the water system if flushed. Those big clumps of hair on your brush belong in the waste receptacle, not the toilet. Another non-dissolver, hair is quick to catch on any projections inside pipes. Those stringy pieces then snag other bits of waste, leading to formidable clogs that could require a drain snake to remove. Toss that tangle in the trash! Related: 10 Smart Storage Tricks for a Tiny Bathroom After completing your dentist-recommended daily flossing, don't drop the used piece in the commode. Long strands of waxed or unwaxed floss can wrap around other items in the drainage system, quickly turning a little string into a big headache for a plumber. Plus, dental floss isn't biodegradable. Avoid a mess—and a plumber's bill! + Get the help you need for the home you want—sign up for the Bob Vila newsletter today! Dispose of these items in your toilet, and you could end up with costly plumbing problems. metodej / Shutterstock.com You may temporarily get away with treating your toilet like a garbage can, but sooner or later you'll end up with an expensive plumbing bill. Toilets were designed to do only one thing: Dispose of human waste and toilet paper. Even so, many people are tempted to use them to get rid of various things. Clogged toilets are caused by everything from discarded food to cat litter. In addition to damaging your plumbing, some items also can harm the environment if they find their way into the ecosystem. Following are things you should never flush down your toilet. 1. Cigarette butts You may think cigarette butts are small enough to pass through your plumbing without causing problems. But Stephany Smith, a plumber at the Fantastic Services property maintenance company in London, tells Money Talks News that cigarette butts can stop up your pipes. That is because, unlike toilet paper, they don't dissolve in water. So, empty your ashtray in the trash bin. 2. Tampons and sanitary napkins The cotton used in tampons and sanitary napkins wasn't meant to be flushed down toilets, says Glenn Gallas, the vice president of operations at Mr. Rooter Plumbing. "The cotton in these items can easily snag and grab on just about anything," he tells Money Talks News. In addition to harming your own plumbing, such products can clog up the waste disposal system down the line, he notes. Cotton then must be removed from the waste stream by workers and sent to landfills. Tampon maker Tampax notes that while its products biodegrade in landfills, flushing tampons is not the way to dispose of them. It's better for the environment and your plumbing to put them in the trash. 3. Cooking oil and grease It's always a mistake to attempt to dispose of cooking oil or grease in a toilet. These substances will "wreak havoc in your plumbing system," says Smith. Alex Berezow, senior editor at Big Think and a longtime science writer, explains to Money Talks News: "Cooking oil absolutely clogs pipes because it solidifies as it cools." 4. Stringy materials Hair, dental floss, thread and string can cause a mountain of troubles if flushed down the toilet, Smith tells Money Talks News. That's because they don't easily dissolve in water. If flushing hair down the toilet becomes a habit, sooner or later you can expect "a massive ball" of debris to form in your pipes, Smith adds. When cleaning hair from your bathtub drain, resist the impulse to drop it into the toilet. 5. Cat litter Cat litter contains more than your cat's waste, says Gallas. "It also has clay and sand, which are extremely troublesome," he says. Cat litter is designed to absorb moisture and create clumps, which can turn into large clogs once they enter your pipes. The only safe place to dispose of cat litter is the trash. Cat litter can create clogs even if it is labeled as flushable, reports The New York Times. 6. Medicines Wastewater treatment plants aren't designed to filter out medicines. So, drugs that are flushed down toilets eventually may enter rivers, streams and lakes, reports The New York Times. Gallas says: "While prescription medication, over the counter medication, and other substances don't necessarily mess up your pipes, the ingredients in pharmaceuticals can pose dangers to your water supply. Instead, dispose of medications responsibly, through your local pharmacy or medication disposal program." 7. Wet wipes One of the easiest ways to clog your toilet and sewer lines is to flush wet wipes. Even if they are promoted as flushable, Smith doesn't recommend putting them in your toilet. Wet wipes have created clogs in aging sewage systems in some U.S. cities, Gallas says. That's because they don't disintegrate as quickly as toilet paper. And in the age of coronavirus precautions, it's important to note that you also should not flush disinfectant wipes. 8. Food Some foods — such as pasta, noodles, rice, grits and bread — absorb water and expand after you drop them into a toilet, says Smith. Because of this, they are likely to form blockages in pipes. To play it safe, never put food of any kind in your toilet. 9. Contact lenses Many contact lenses are disposable. But if you flush them down the toilet, they won't biodegrade easily, The New York Times reports. Some may end up polluting waterways. Disclosure: The information you read here is always objective. However, we sometimes receive compensation when you click links within our stories. Like Article Add a Comment

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