# Running Toilet Diagnosis Chart

Three causes cover almost every running toilet. Find yours in 60 seconds:

| YOU HEAR / SEE | THE CHECK | THE CAUSE | THE FIX |
|---|---|---|---|
| Toilet refills itself every few minutes ("phantom flush") | Dye test: food coloring in the tank, wait 15-20 min. Color in the bowl = leak | **Worn flapper (the rubber seal in the tank)** | Replace the flapper - about 15 min, chain with 1/2" of slack |
| Constant trickle or hiss; water flows over the overflow tube | Lift the lid: is water above the top of the overflow tube? | **Fill valve / water level too high** | Lower the float so water stops 1" below the tube top; replace the valve if it still runs |
| Running stops when you jiggle the handle | Watch the chain: kinked, tangled, or caught under the flapper? | **Chain or handle problem** | Straighten the chain (1/2" slack), snug the handle nut by hand - $0 fix |

**Flapper size:** measure the flush-valve opening at the bottom of the tank - most toilets use a **2-inch** flapper; many newer high-efficiency models use a **3-inch**.

**Call a plumber if:** the toilet rocks on its base, you smell sewer gas, the supply valve is seized or corroded, or the porcelain is cracked.

Full step-by-step guide: vitaldwelling.com/how-to-fix-a-running-toilet/ - Vital Dwelling