



# The Daily Gleaner

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## Let's Talk Toilets!

Let us take a moment to explore all the ways we use water in our lives. There is personal use – showers, baths, brushing teeth, washing hands, and flushing the toilet. There is water use for cleaning – dishwashers, clothes washers, washing dishes in the sink, and washing cars. And of course there is water to maintain life – people drink water, use water for cooking, and feed water to plants, gardens, lawns and animals.

To break it down further, residential indoor water use in Canada is as follows: toilet – 30 percent; bathing and showering – 35 percent; laundry – 20 percent; kitchen and drinking – 10 percent; cleaning – 5 percent.

In the ongoing Green Matters water conservation campaign called *Every Drop Counts* ([www.greenmattersfredericton.com/EveryDropCounts.asp](http://www.greenmattersfredericton.com/EveryDropCounts.asp)), you are encouraged and provided with tips to conserve water in every way possible in and around the home. Most likely you have already taught your children (or they have taught you!) to turn the faucet off when brushing teeth, and to watch out for drips in faucets. If your faucet is dripping at the rate of one drop per second, you can expect to waste 2,700 gallons of water per year! Also, turning water off while brushing teeth can save nearly 1,000 gallons of water a year for an average family household!

Now let's get down and dirty – to the toilet. The toilet represents one of the highest water usages in the home. Why is so much water being flushed everyday? Some older homes still have toilets that consume 13 liters per flush (LPF) or even 20 LPF (prior to the 1980s)! But fortunately for us the technology of toilets is changing to lower flush, dual flush and high efficiency toilets. Water-efficient toilets are now often 6 liters, and in the case of dual flush toilets, the choice of either a 3L or 6L flush, depending on the need.

Are the toilets in your home flushing more water than needed each flush? Are you building, buying or renovating your home? Or, is it just time to replace the toilets in your home? If so, make your way to **Home Depot on Regent Street all day on Saturday, October 4<sup>th</sup>**. The City of Fredericton and American Standard have teamed up and together are offering Fredericton residents a **\$40 rebate on high efficiency toilets** in a one-day-only water savings event. The coupons are available in store, so bring your water bill and identification that matches the bill name and address to get your savings on a new water-conserving toilet! You will have a choice between a high efficiency 6 liter toilet, and a dual flush option of half flush (3L) or full flush (6L).

Another handy tip to remember is that there are now tiny devices called 'water diverters' that can be placed in the toilet bowl. A typical toilet pours more water down the fill tube than is required to fill the bowl after a flush. This small gadget diverts some of that water into the tank, saving about 3 liters, or

three quarters of a gallon per fill. The key of this device is that it doesn't save water on the flush, only on the fill. So if a new low flush toilet is not in your budget by October 4<sup>th</sup>, be sure to ask your hardware store about these water diverters, or look online – an example can be found at [www.econogics.com/WaterSaver/index.htm](http://www.econogics.com/WaterSaver/index.htm).

Also be sure to pick up some aerators on your next visit to the hardware store. They are very inexpensive and simple to install. They spread the stream of water into many little droplets instead of one big stream. Faucet aerators can reduce your home water consumption as much as 50 percent, and also reduce your energy cost of heating the water by as much as 50 percent.

So remember – **Saturday, October 4<sup>th</sup> all day at Home Depot, \$40 rebate on high efficiency toilets** – See you there!

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