

THE TOILET PAPERS - VOL. 1

By Donna DiFrancesco
Utilities Conservation Specialist

FLUSHING OUT THE FACTS ON WATER EFFICIENT TOILETS

It was in 1994 that the National Energy Policy Act (H.R. 776) went into effect requiring that toilets and a variety of other products meet established energy and water efficiency standards. That is when 1.6 gallon toilets became a federal standard for any new construction or a remodel. The good news is that the 1.6 gallon low-flow toilets have been shown to reduce toilet water use by 23 to 46 percent.

The bad news? Unfortunately, the first round of low-flow toilets were not always well designed. Many manufacturers simply made the tank smaller or designed the flapper to close more quickly. Consumer complaints were common.

Luckily, many manufacturers have been working to improve their products, but like everything else, some work better than others.

Confirming the worst fears of the water industry, a study performed by the University of Arizona Water Resources Research Center, found that many of the 1.6 gallon toilets lost their effi-



We spend 3 years of our life using the toilet, so make sure you have a good seat.

ciency as they aged or had flappers replaced. Many were shown to eventually use 2 to 3.5 gallons, or even more.

The list of toilets recommended below is from a 2002 study by the National Association of Home Builders Research Center, who rated the performance, water savings, reliability and

physical characteristics of 49 models. The following gravity fed toilets got the

highest performance ratings and maintained a 1.6 gallon flush volume over time :

- **Toto** Drake, Ultimate, Dartmouth, or UltraMax
- **Briggs** Altima III or Abingdon III
- **Kohler** Santa Rosa
- **American Standard** Champion
- **Caroma** Caravelle or Tasman
- **Niagra** Flapperless

Note that specific models are important!



Evolution of Low-flow Toilets

1994 to present	1.6 gal.
1980's	3.5 gal.
1960's	5.5 gal.
Pre-1960	7 gal.

Toilet Trivia

Replacing 3.5 gallon toilets with 1.6 gallon toilets could save an average household 12,000 gallons of water per year.

CAROMA DUAL FLUSH TOILET LETS YOU CHOOSE HOW LOW YOU FLOW

Caroma, an Australian based company specializing in design and manufacture of quality bathroom products, has pioneered the two-button, dual flush toilet. The company states that a cutting edge washdown technology combined with a 4" trap throughway assures unsurpassed flushing efficiency.

The most exciting part of this innovation is that it offers a 0.8 gallon half flush for liquid

waste or 1.6 gallon full flush for solid waste, saving up to 27 percent more water.

Local water conservationists who have tested this toilet in their homes have raved about the performance.

There is currently only one distributor in the area for Caroma dual flush toilets. It is Sunstate Sales, located in Phoenix. Contact them at 602-484-7148.

