

TOILETS

We all use them, but how many of us know how they work? Here are the dirty secrets of just what happens to your wee and poo when you press the flush button...

2,000,000,000

The number of litres of water used to flush toilets in the UK every single day. Modern dual-flush toilets use about half as much water as old-fashioned ones.

Modern **DUAL-FLUSH** toilets have two buttons, one for a short flush, which only uses a small amount of water to wash away a wee, and one for a full flush for dealing with big poos!

Pressing the button operates a **VALVE** at the bottom of the **CISTERN** which allows water to flow down into the toilet bowl.

The water flows down into the toilet through **CHANNELS** under the rim, which make sure it cleans all the way around the toilet bowl.

CISTERN

TOILET BOWL

After using the toilet, you press a **BUTTON** (or pull a lever on older toilets) to make it flush.

The **FLOAT** floats on the surface of the water and moves upwards as the cistern fills up. When the water in the cistern reaches the correct level, the lever attached to the float pushes down on the inlet valve and closes it. The cistern is now refilled and ready to flush again. Older toilets have a round float called a ballcock.

After flushing, the **INLET VALVE** opens to allow water from the mains supply to fill up the cistern.

The cistern is connected to the **MAINS WATER** supply.

A pool of water remains in the **S-BEND** after the flush to stop nasty smells and gases coming back up from the drains.

Waste in the bowl is washed down and around the **S-BEND** by the force of the flush and then flows down into the drains.

Word search

Can you find these toilet-related words? They might be written forwards, backwards, vertically, horizontally or diagonally! Circle any that you find.

Ballcock	Paper	Tank
Bowl	Pipe	Toilet
Flush	Poo	Valve
Handle	Seat	Wee

R P I P E U M X T C
B T Z N P A P E R A
H A N D L E L R L L
L N N A B I V S H W
W K K C O C L L A B
O H X T X I W S A K
B G S Z S A B E A V
D E A U S O E A R K
B A H H L W O T O V
R E T A W F A P W M

Find the answers on page 34.

HA HA HA!

What did one toilet say to the other toilet?
You look flushed!