



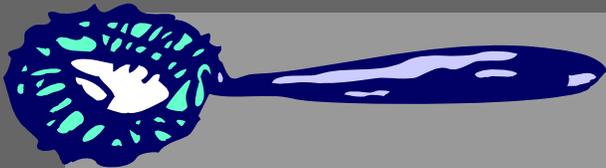
# Preventative Maintenance for Your Toilets

By Toiletology

**A**ccording to a survey on the life expectancy of materials done by the National Association of Home Builders, a toilet can last 50 years. That is of course, that it is given reasonable care, and you don't get tired of the avocado green that was so popular when you selected the bathroom fixtures in the first place. This statistic should give anyone shopping for new bathroom fixtures cause to pause before they select the latest fad in colored fixtures. My guess is that few avocado green toilets will die a natural death. Most will be replaced long before their 50th anniversary for purely cosmetic reasons.

That said, let's look at what we can do to make our fixtures last 50 years.

- Treat your toilet tanks and bowls like the "china bowls" that they are; they can and will crack if abused. **BE CAREFUL** with tools around a toilet, don't compound the problem when making a repair. You can't fix a cracked toilet bowl or tank. Never hit a toilet tank or bowl connection with a hammer to break a fitting...use a penetrating lubricant.
- Never use a toilet for a ladder. Don't stand or sit on a toilet tank lid. And don'ts put a lot of pressure against a tank by leaning back.



Throw the toilet bowl cleaning brush away as soon as the bristles wear down and metal is showing. Once the bowl is scratched, it's impossible to keep clean, and you won't be able to repair the scratches. A plastic brush is less likely to scratch the china.

Don't treat your toilets as a universal garbage disposal. Just because a product is called disposable doesn't mean it should be flushed down the toilet. Keep a waste paper basket in the bathroom for such things as facial tissues, gum, all sanitary products, bandages and paper towels. Disposable diapers don't belong in a toilet unless you first remove the plastic liner and tear the paper diaper into smaller pieces. Flushing a facial tissue down a toilet is unlikely to cause a problem, but it helps to develop a bad habit that creates the impression that a toilet can digest everything. Plus, flushing a toilet to dispose of a facial tissue is a real waste of water. Also remember that hazardous chemicals may not harm your toilets, but they shouldn't be flushed away either. Don't forget that by flushing harmful items and chemicals could damage pipelines besides your Wastewater Treatment Plant result in higher cost to consumers.



Don't store small items or heavy items on the lid of the toilet tank you can minimize the risk of something falling, such as toys, brushes, combs, etc. A tooth brush that gets stuck in the interior passageway of a toilet bowl that can't be dislodged means replacing the toilet. A very heavy item that hits the china bowl could also chip or crack the bowl.

Never pour hot water into a toilet bowl or tank, the bowl or tank may crack, and never mix toilet cleaning products.

For more information: [www.toiletology.com](http://www.toiletology.com)



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