

So you're thinking of buying a new toilet

Toilet purchasing considerations by DIYplumbingAdvice.com

1) What brand do I go with?

- Does Brand matter?
No, results do! See the map-testing.com site or hire a professional and insist on *results*.

2) Features size color shape

- ADA (comfort) height, which is about 2 inches higher than a regular toilet height of 15 inches (not including the seat)
- Seat with handles ADA grab bars on a wall are sometimes not possible due to wall distance. Seats are made with raised bars on the side for ADA features.
- One-piece toilet
- Elongated (watch for door clearance)
- Pressure assist. Note higher noise and minimum water pressure requirement.
- Color (colors cost more, especially black)
- Dual flush (don't recommend, due cost and repair)
- Smooth exterior at floor joint (skirting)
- Soft-closing seat
- Sana Gloss, (Toto brand), or other better glazing for cleaner surface as minerals build up on the glazing surface in the bowl. Better glazing limits this.

3) Gallons per flush

- 1.6 gpf vs. 1.28 gpf requirements may vary by state.
- Map-testing.com test site

4) Physical requirements

- Door clearance
- Round front vs elongated
- Distance from wall to toilet bolts
 - 10" rough in option
- Tank height to fit under counter ledge over toilet, (Banjo countertop)

5) Can't you just give me a make and model number?

- Regional availability and marketing
 - You may want any of the many options existing. Most brands make 20 or even 40 different toilets. Toilets are more important than cell phones, due diligence is recommended
- What's in the store
- Buying on line
- Free shipping vs. return postage if the toilet arrives broken
- The \$100 toilet at the big-box store
 - Parts: Are future parts like flappers available at hardware stores and at what price?
 - Metal vs bronze: The bolts in tank that are exposed to water, are they brass, or metal that will rust and break?
 - Capacity test results: Are you interested in delving into the massive volume of data and making a choice based on the map-testing site?
 - Paying a plumber once and getting a better toilet due to the professional knowledge and not needing to deal with shipping or anything else
 - Hauling away the old toilet, some trash services charge \$25 or more to haul away a toilet. Not all neighbors tolerate an old toilet in front yard with flowers in it.

