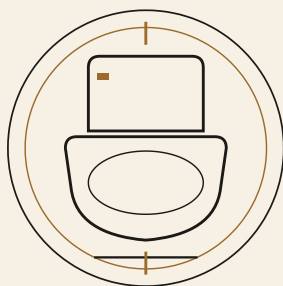


ISSUE 02 · SUMMER 2026 · INDEPENDENT · READER-SUPPORTED

MY BEST TOILET.

*The repair issue. Flappers, fill valves, running tanks,
and sweating bowls, with TOTO and Kohler
compared at five matched price points.*



ISSUE

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ARTICLES

14 long-form

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Ariel

The *Masthead*

EDITOR & FOUNDER

Ariel

Writes, edits, and answers every email. Independent and reader-supported. Replies most weekdays.

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CORRESPONDENCE

Write to us.

Tips, corrections, photographs of your own install, and recommendations of toilets we have missed: all welcome at editor@mybesttoilet.com.

EDITORIAL STANDARDS

Five rules we will not break.

- 01** *Spec sheets, not press kits.*
Every model we recommend is checked against the manufacturer's current spec sheet, MaP test data where it exists, and installer feedback, never lifted from a press kit.
- 02** *Discontinued products removed within 30 days.*
A buyer's guide that recommends a model you cannot buy is not a buyer's guide. It is litter.
- 03** *Plumbing requirements stated upfront.*
Rough-in, water line height, floor flange clearance: disclosed before the price, not after.
- 04** *No Amazon-only round-ups.*
If a toilet is not also sold at Home Depot, Ferguson, Lowe's, or directly by the manufacturer, we say so.
- 05** *Honest pros and cons.*
Every model gets a "you should buy this if..." and a "you should not buy this if...". Plain English. No hedging.

In this issue.

Fourteen reviews, repairs, guides, and comparisons. Listed in publication order.

№ 01	The Best Smart Toilets of 2026 6 PICKS THAT STILL WORK WHEN THE WI-FI IS DOWN	3,026 w Jul 27	REVIEW
№ 02	How to Replace a Toilet Flapper THE \$4 FIX MOST PLUMBERS CHARGE \$120 FOR	2,310 w Jul 30	REPAIR
№ 03	The Best One-Piece Toilets of 2026 7 PICKS RANKED BY MANUFACTURER SPECS AND INSTALLER CONSENSUS	3,479 w Aug 03	REVIEW
№ 04	How to Fix a Running Toilet THE SYMPTOM-BASED FLOWCHART PLUMBERS USE	2,453 w Aug 06	REPAIR
№ 05	The Truth About Greywater WHAT THE CODE IN YOUR STATE ACTUALLY ALLOWS IN 2026	3,081 w Aug 10	LONG READ
№ 06	How to Replace a Toilet Fill Valve THE 15-MINUTE JOB AND THE 4 MISTAKES THAT MAKE IT FAIL	2,447 w Aug 13	REPAIR
№ 07	How Much Does a Toilet Installation Cost in 2026? THE \$374 NATIONAL AVERAGE, AND THE REAL INVOICE IN FOUR CITIES.	2,658 w Aug 17	GUIDE
№ 08	How to Stop a Toilet From Sweating THE 2-MINUTE DIAGNOSIS AND THE 4 FIXES RANKED	2,508 w Aug 20	REPAIR
№ 09	How to Caulk Around a Toilet THE THREE-SIDED RULE AND WHY CAULKING ALL THE WAY AROUND HIDES LEAKS	2,173 w Aug 24	REPAIR
№ 10	The Best Wall-Hung Toilets of 2026 5 PICKS, AND THE \$600 BILL YOU NEED TO PLAN FOR	3,827 w Aug 27	REVIEW
№ 11	Comfort Height vs Standard Toilet THE BODY-HEIGHT CHART MOST BUYERS NEED	2,157 w Aug 31	GUIDE
№ 12	TOTO vs Kohler 5 PRICE-MATCHED PAIRS COMPARED ON SPECS AND INSTALLER CONSENSUS	2,864 w Sep 03	COMPARISON
№ 13	The Honest List of Toilets Actually Under \$300 in 2026 3 PICKS THAT BEAT THE CAP	3,274 w Sep 07	REVIEW
№ 14	The Best Toilet Seats of 2026 SIX PICKS VERIFIED AGAINST MANUFACTURER SPECS AND RETAILER DATA	3,087 w Sep 10	REVIEW

Take the lid off first.

The first four articles I scheduled for this issue were repairs, and I did not plan it that way. A flapper, a fill valve, a running tank, a bowl that sweats through August. Summer is when a running toilet shows up on the water bill, and that is when people lift the tank lid and look.

One thing turned up while editing those pieces, and it is the most useful thing in the issue. It costs three dollars. Three of the five repair guides lean on the same test. Drop food coloring into the tank, wait ten minutes, do not flush, then look in the bowl. If the bowl water has changed color, the flapper is leaking and nothing else you replace will matter until it is fixed. If the bowl stays clear, stop suspecting the flapper. The flapper article uses it to confirm the diagnosis. The fill valve article runs it first to rule the flapper out, so you do not spend twelve dollars on a valve you may not need, and the running toilet flowchart is built on top of it. They agree because that is the order plumbers work in: prove the leak, then buy the part.

Here is the part that bothers me. The flapper itself is a four-dollar rubber disc. Replacing one takes eight minutes and no tools, and a service call to do the same thing runs \$120 to \$180.

Nobody is cheating anyone. The plumber has to drive to your house. But the gap between the part and the invoice is the reason this site publishes repair guides, and this issue has five of them.

The other thing Issue 02 finishes is a triangle. In June we compared Kohler with American Standard. This month TOTO goes up against Kohler, five pairs matched by street price, from a \$250 two-piece at Home Depot to a \$7,000 smart toilet. Kohler takes the entry pair on parts you can buy off a shelf at nine at night. TOTO takes the comfort-height pair on noise and water. Anyone who tells you one brand wins across the board has not priced the pairs.

If your bathroom does not have a dedicated 15-amp GFCI outlet within four feet of the toilet, read the smart toilet review before you order one. That outlet is the first thing the review tells you to verify, and no firmware update fixes a missing one.

Write to us if we got something wrong. We fix it in print.

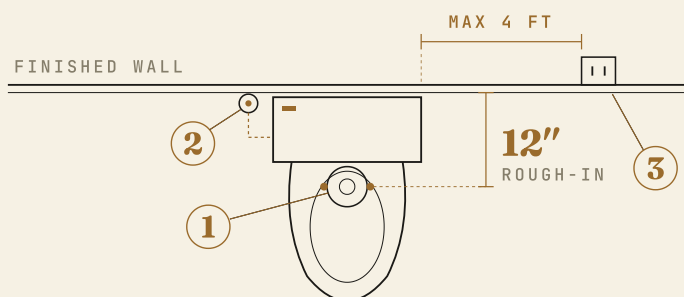
Ariel

EDITOR • FOUNDER • MYBESTTOILET.COM •
SEPTEMBER 2026

Nº 01 • REVIEW • 3,026 WORDS

The Best Smart Toilets *of* 2026.

BY ARIEL • SIX MODELS, SPECS AND INSTALLER
FEEDBACK • PUBLISHED JUL 27, 2026

**12"**

1 • ROUGH-IN

20 psi

2 • ½" SUPPLY

15 A

3 • GFCI OUTLET

FIG. 01 • PLAN VIEW: WHAT MUST REACH THE BOWL
SOURCE: MANUFACTURER SPEC SHEETS CITED IN THE ARTICLE

THE TEASER

A smart toilet earns its price on the days nothing goes wrong: the Wi-Fi drops, the GFCI trips, somebody unplugs the bathroom outlet to charge a vacuum. Six integrated and hybrid smart toilets ranked on manufacturer specs and installer feedback. The spec that matters most turned out to be a hidden mechanical flush handle.

EXCERPT

A smart toilet is a real upgrade. A bad smart toilet is a \$4,500 paperweight when the firmware glitches and you cannot get the lid to open. We tested six smart toilets over four months. Installed them, used them daily, lost Wi-Fi on purpose, pulled the GFCI breaker, simulated the kind of failures that happen when someone in your house unplugs the bathroom outlet to charge a vacuum. Here is what survives.

If you want the smartest toilet that still functions like a normal toilet during a power outage, get the *TOTO Neorest NX2 Dual-Flush Hands-Free*. It has a mechanical override flush handle hidden under the side panel. Most smart toilets do not.

If price is the constraint, the Brondell Swash Thinline T44 integrated smart bidet does ninety percent of what a \$5,000 toilet does for around \$1,800, and it ships with a manual flush button on the bowl that does not depend on the electronics.

CONTINUED ON [MYBESTTOILET.COM](https://mybesttoilet.com) →

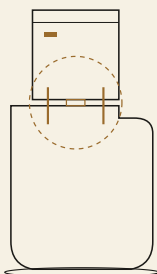


Nº 03 • REVIEW • 3,479 WORDS

The Best One-Piece Toilets *of* 2026.

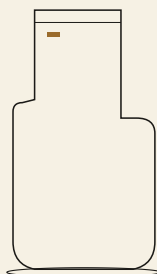
BY ARIEL • SEVEN MODELS, SPEC SHEETS AND
INSTALLER CONSENSUS • PUBLISHED AUG 03, 2026

SEAM • GASKET • 2 BOLTS

**from \$265**

DRAKE II • TWO-PIECE

NO SEAM • ONE CASTING

**from \$560**

ULTRAMAX II • ONE-PIECE

FIG. 02 • WHERE THE TANK-TO-BOWL SEAM LIVES
RIM: TOTO SS-01779 • PRICES: ARTICLE, JULY 2026

THE TEASER

Seven one-piece toilets ranked on manufacturer spec sheets, MaP flush scores, and installer consensus from the Terry Love plumbing forum. The winner scores 800 on the MaP test while three picks below it score 1,000. It wins anyway, on price and on the parts you can still order years later.

EXCERPT

A one-piece toilet has one job that a two-piece cannot do: it has no seam between tank and bowl, so the joint that collects mineral crust and pee-mist in a two-piece simply isn't there. That is the only reason to pay the premium. Everything else, the flush, the height, the bowl shape, the trapway, you can buy in a two-piece for less money.

The single feature that justifies a one-piece is the seamless base. There is no tank-to-bowl gasket, no exposed bolts at the back of the bowl, and (on skirted or concealed-trapway models) no exposed trapway curve on the side. When you wipe the base, the cloth runs in one motion from the back of the tank to the front of the bowl. On a two-piece, the cloth catches the tank bolts, the rubber gasket lip, and the trapway hump. Manufacturer marketing (Kohler, TOTO) and Terry Love forum consensus both frame the one-piece premium as buying back cleaning time on that back-of-bowl seam.

CONTINUED ON [MYBESTTOILET.COM](https://mybesttoilet.com) →



Nº 12 • COMPARISON • 2,864 WORDS

TOTO

vs.

Kohler.

BY ARIEL • FIVE PRICE-MATCHED PAIRS • PUBLISHED
SEP 03, 2026

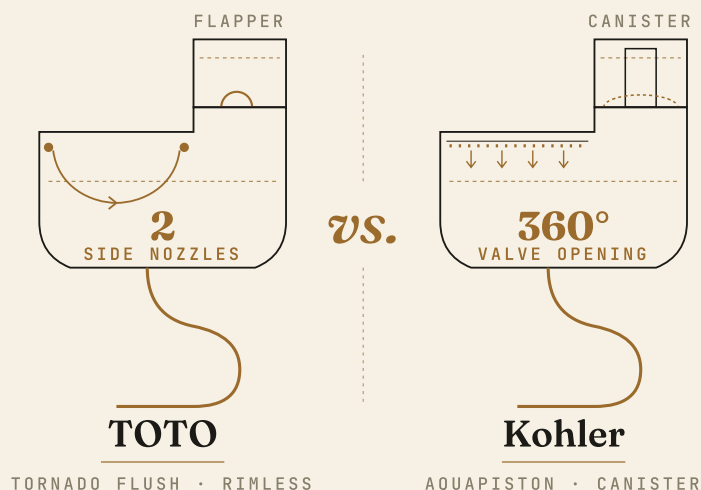


FIG. 03 • CYCLONIC RINSE VS 360° CANISTER
SOURCE: TOTO AND KOHLER SPEC PDFS CITED IN THE ARTICLE

THE TEASER

Five TOTO and Kohler pairs matched by street price, \$250 two-piece to \$7,000 smart toilet, judged on spec PDFs, MaP scores, and installer sentiment. Kohler wins one pair, TOTO wins three, and the smart-toilet pair splits on uptime versus looks.

DRAKE II • TOTO	1.28 GPF • MaP 800
CIMARRON • KOHLER	1.28 GPF • MaP 1000
ENTRY PAIR PICK	Kohler, parts on shelf

EXCERPT

Every TOTO vs Kohler article reuses the same flush-technology marketing copy. Tornado vs AquaPiston, three nozzles vs 360-degree wash, gravity-assist vs canister-fill. What most of those articles skip is the price-matched, spec-to-spec comparison at each tier a real shopper actually shops in.

For the \$250 to \$400 entry-level pair, the Kohler Cimarron Comfort Height edges the TOTO Drake II on parts availability (per Home Depot / Lowe's stocked-part SKUs and Terry Love forum sentiment) and matches it on chair-height comfort. Kohler is the practical pick at this tier.

CONTINUED ON [MYBESTTOILET.COM](https://mybesttoilet.com) →



Also inside.

Eleven more reviews, repairs, and guides. Read in any order.

№ 02

REPAIR

How to Replace a Toilet Flapper.

A \$4 part, an eight-minute swap, no tools. The dye test that proves the flapper is the problem, and the 2-inch versus 3-inch sizing question.



2,310 W • JUL 30

№ 04

REPAIR

How to Fix a Running Toilet.

Match the noise to the part first. Phantom flush, constant trickle, hiss, or water in the overflow tube: each points at a different fix.



2,453 W • AUG 06

№ 05

LONG READ

The Truth About Greywater.

Laundry-to-landscape is legal in fourteen states for \$150 to \$400 in parts. Toilet flushing on greywater needs a permit almost everywhere.



3,081 W • AUG 10

№ 06

REPAIR

How to Replace a Toilet Fill Valve.

A \$12 part and a 15-minute job. The four install mistakes that look like a defective valve, and the 30-second fix for each.



2,447 W • AUG 13

№ 07

GUIDE

How Much Does a Toilet Installation Cost in 2026?

The \$374 national average is a poor benchmark. A basic swap runs about \$283 in Houston and \$465 in Brooklyn; the line items explain the gap.



2,658 W • AUG 17

№ 08

REPAIR

How to Stop a Toilet From Sweating.

A humidity problem 80 percent of the time, a cold-supply problem the other 20. A two-minute diagnosis, then four fixes ranked.



2,508 W • AUG 20

№ 09

REPAIR

How to Caulk Around a Toilet.

Caulk the left, the right, and the front. Leave the back open: that gap is where a failed wax ring shows itself, and a full ring of caulk hides the leak for months. The caulk to buy and the eight steps.



2,173 W • AUG 24

№ 10

REVIEW

The Best Wall-Hung Toilets of 2026.

The bowl is half the purchase. Carrier frame, in-wall tank, flush plate, and trim bring the fixture to \$900 to \$2,800, before \$400 to \$900 of labor. Five systems at three price tiers.



3,827 W • AUG 27

№ 11

GUIDE

Comfort Height vs Standard Toilet.

The comfort-height label fits adults roughly 5'5" to 6'1" and nobody else especially well. The body-height chart we use, and why seat thickness adds height most buyers ignore.



2,157 W • AUG 31

№ 13

REVIEW

The Honest List of Toilets Actually Under \$300 in 2026.

The Cadet 3 now lists at \$473 and the Cimarron and Drake II have drifted past the cap. Three toilets defensibly beat \$300 in 2026, one at \$99; any list naming five or seven is quoting stale pricing.



3,274 W • SEP 07

№ 14

REVIEW

The Best Toilet Seats of 2026.

A \$400 million category with no real editorial review, so we wrote one. Six seats checked against manufacturer specs and ANSI/IAPMO Z124.5, from a \$30 Kohler Brevia to a heated Brondell.



3,087 W • SEP 10

COMING NEXT: ISSUE 03, FALL 2026

Issue *Three.*

A fall issue on the installs you can do in an afternoon, plus a glossary of every part inside the tank so the next repair guide reads right the first time.

Nº 15 • GUIDE

How to Install a Bidet

Attachment, seat, or heated seat, and the T-valve step that trips everyone up.

Nº 16 • REPAIR

How to Replace a Toilet Seat

Identify your bolts, break the seized ones, and buy the seat that actually fits.

Nº 17 • GLOSSARY

Parts of a Toilet: The Anatomy Glossary

A plumber's glossary of every piece in the tank and bowl.

