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NEWS RELEASE

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Which is the Proper Way to Hang Toilet Paper?

Online Debate Rages in Campaign to Raise Awareness about Toilet Leaks

SACRAMENTO—With the election over—if not behind us—it’s time to focus on another raging debate—which is the proper way to hang toilet paper? Over or under?

The debate, in the form of a Facebook poll that has attracted hundreds of comments, is part of a regional campaign by Sacramento-area water providers to raise awareness about toilet leaks, which waste more water inside homes than any other kind of household leak. The grand prize for weighing in? A \$50 gift certificate to a local hardware store AND a case of toilet paper.

“A leaking toilet can waste 200 gallons of water per day—that’s enough water to wash seven loads of laundry every day for a month,” said Amy Talbot, Water Efficiency Program Manager for the Regional Water Authority (RWA), which represents over 20 water providers serving 2 million people in the Sacramento region. “We’re hoping the Over vs. Under poll injects a bit of fun while also raising awareness about the need to repair toilet leaks quickly.”

Comments posted in response to the Over vs. Under poll have so far ranged from historical (“The patent application shows it over the top”) to confessional (“Under, and when I stay at hotels I switch it”) to helpful (“Never use the first few sheets of paper in a public restroom since they are not clean”) to practical (“Getting the job done right is the important thing”) to philosophical (“Always over because you need to move forward in life, not backwards”).

Several cat lovers have weighed in (“Over. That gives the cat the ability to have fun pulling down lots and lots of TP”). Though strong opinions are voiced (“Whoever changes the roll gets to choose”), the debate has remained very civilized. Early results show that “over” is leading in the poll.

“Just like our poll, confirming a toilet leak is simple,” Talbot offers, “simply add a little food coloring or a dye tab to the tank and wait about 15 minutes. If there is colored water in the bowl, you have a leak.” The cause is often a worn out toilet flapper, which can break down over time, Talbot said, adding that residents should turn off the water to the toilet and replace the old flapper with the same or a universal model, typically found at a home improvement store.

As for the Over-Under debate? Said Talbot, “Ultimately, aren’t we all just glad that the toilet paper is there when we need it?”

There is still time for people to make their voice heard in the Over vs. Under debate. Participants can earn a chance to win the grand prize \$50 gift card and case of TP, as well as request a FREE Toilet Leak Detection Kit. Take the poll and learn more water-wise tips at BeWaterSmart.info.

The Regional Water Authority (RWA) is a joint powers authority representing 20 water providers serving 2 million people in the greater Sacramento region. Formed in 2001, its primary mission is to help its members protect and enhance the reliability, availability, affordability and quality of water resources.

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