SAVE WATER
WITH HIPPOS

Why is NI Water promoting Hippo bags?

Over 30% of water used in the home is flushed down the toilet, but most toilets will still flush with less water. For all customers, there are benefits in helping to save water – a precious natural and limited source.

What is a Hippo bag?

The Hippo bag is a cistern displacement device (CDD) which will reduce the volume of water flushed down a toilet, saving up to 3 litres of water per flush. Made of durable heavy gauge polythene, the Hippo bag has a small hole or 'relief valve', which prevents stagnant water collecting in it, by allowing slow circulation between the bag and cistern.

Can a Hippo bag be fitted in all cisterns?

Hippos are only effective in larger older cisterns installed before 1993. We do not recommend that a Hippo bag is fitted to a low-flush toilet which already uses 6 litres or less.
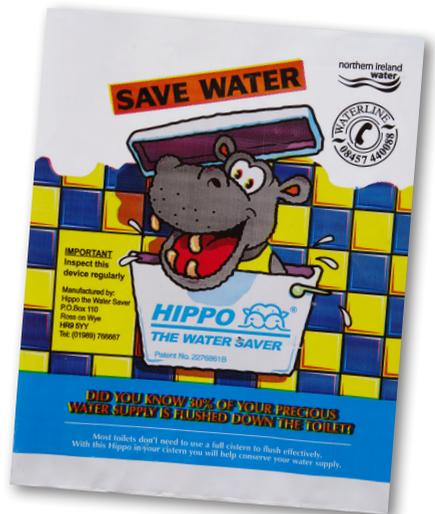
How to fit a Hippo bag

There are instructions printed on the Hippo bag to show how it should be installed.

The main steps involved in fitting a bag are as follows:

1. Put both hands inside the Hippo bag and push out the corners to create a box shape.
2. Turn the Hippo bag upside-down and place its open end over the cistern ball float (as can be seen in the photograph).
3. Then turn the bag over so that it is immersed in the water and the ball float is inside its open end.
4. Flood the Hippo bag completely by pushing down with one hand placed inside.
5. Flush the toilet whilst simultaneously pouring 3-4 litres of water into the Hippo bag.

Points to Remember

1. After a number of flushes over a 48 hour period the Hippo bag will settle in.
2. Following the fitting, visually check that the bag is not blocking and cannot accidentally block, the overflow pipe.
3. **Check your Hippo bag regularly**

Northern Ireland Water

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