

to use them less often; e.g., only with full loads. Reduced use of these appliances also will save energy.

Other Saving Devices

Leak detection tablets have often been included in mass water-saving device distribution programs. The tablets are used to determine whether or not toilets are leaking water from the tank into the bowl at a rate not noticeable to the homeowner. Limited available data indicate that 14 percent of toilets in service may be leaking. The California Department of Water Resources tested a number of these tablets as part of their water conservation program. The formulations of the tablets were reviewed by a toxicologist to ascertain potential hazards to children, and all but one of those reviewed were found to be safe. The tablets vary in cost and some difference in their rate of dissolution was noted.⁹

Pressure reducing valves have been required in new construction by the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission since 1973. These devices are placed in the main supply line to houses where water pressure exceeds 60 psi. Their function is to reduce service pressures to the 50 to 60 psi range. Little is known about the savings attributable to such devices, but they are recommended in new construction to reduce water use, pipe hammer and frequency of fixture maintenance.¹⁰

Spray taps were first researched in England in the 1950's. Their use has not been widespread in this country despite the significant water and energy savings reported. Some commercially available spray taps limit flows to 0.75 gallons per minute and have built-in mixing valves. They are more costly than conventional hardware, but enable