

# Low Flush

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With a slight swing feel: divide two eighth notes 60:40, not 50:50

The musical score is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of one flat (Bb). It consists of five staves of music. The melody is primarily composed of eighth and quarter notes, with some rests. Chord symbols are placed above the staff lines: C, G7, C, Am, G7, C, C, G7, C, D7, G7, F, C, C, G7, C, F, C, G7, Am, F, C, C, G7, C. The lyrics are written below the notes.

We had the re-no-va-tors at our house one year To re-store, re-paint and re-new. They tried to fix the toi-let where it leaked a bit, And the bot-tom broke right through. So we took the op-por-tu-ni-ty to make a change And do some-thing that was green And put a low-flush toi-let in the ve-ry same place Where the high-flush toi-let had been. An or-di-na-ry toi-let flu-shes se-ven gal-lons, A not in-con-sid-er-a-ble a-mount. I've got a low flush toi-let and a high-fi-ber di-et And I make e-very gal-lon count.

We had the renovators at our house one year  
To restore, repaint and renew.  
They tried to fix the toilet where it leaked a bit,  
And the bottom broke right through.  
So we took the opportunity to make a change  
And do something that was green  
And put a low-flush toilet in the very same place  
Where the high-flush toilet had been.

An ordinary toilet flushes seven gallons,  
A not inconsiderable amount.  
I've got a low flush toilet and a high-fiber diet  
And I make every gallon count.

The thing about an ordinary toilet that's so strange,  
When you stop to consider it,  
Is not the volume of the water that it flushes  
But the fraction of water that's shit.  
For the ordinary citizen, according to statistics,  
Passes one cup of shit once a day,  
Which is only one percent of the volume of the water  
That one flush carries away.

This fraction's denominator's easy to change:  
All it takes is a wrench and some seals.  
The numerator needs a much more radical revision  
In the average citizen's meals.  
For what's the use of having thirty feet of good intestine  
To stuff with white bread and meat  
That barely leave a residue to push along  
When the work of digestion's complete?

Now water conservation cannot stop at the loo,  
For out on the western plains  
There are cattle eating soybeans, grass, and corn  
Where it only rarely rains.  
And the scope of irrigation to support those herds  
Is almost beyond belief:  
Some figure half the water that's consumed in the States  
Gets used in the raising of beef.

Now, water's pretty heavy under gravity's pull,  
Which is why Niagara Falls.  
You can run it through a turbine on its way downstream  
And light houses, shops, and malls.  
But take it from the river for the sake of beef:  
You not only lose its force,  
You need to find power to run the pumps,  
Which means nukes or fossils, of course.

Now, I consume a diet that is mostly fruits and veggies,  
Whole grains, legumes, and seeds.  
The scale in the bathroom says that I'm not disappearing,  
So it must be what my body needs.  
The fiber keeps my transit time to twenty-four hours,  
The fruit makes me have to pee,  
And I get to spend a lot of time reading on the toilet,  
Which is how I got my Ph.D.

Now, I know you may be sitting there, feeling quite disgusted  
At these things that you've just been told.  
And it's absolutely true that I am full of shit,  
But it's rarely more than one day old.  
And if you think this is trivial, not worthy of attention,  
I want you to consider this:  
A six-ounce steak is the equivalent in water  
Of a one-thousand gallon piss.