

The Two-week Tale of the Toilet

Gordon Berry, South Bend

Consisting mostly of email messages between Gordon (landlord) and Heather and Dustin (tenants with their 8 children). I think the whole story indicates once again how fortunate we are that Dustin and family are leaving in three months time...too bad for the rest of the family that they have to continue to support him.

Sunday, 2 March 2014: To Gordon:

Heather and I have been having issues with the plumbing in this house for sometime now and had not had time to discuss it do to all the other issues. Well tonight it came to a head right now we have no working toilette in the house they keep backing up and I plunged for an hour nothing will work it has progressively gotten harder and harder to flush and now it stopped working. I know it's a Sunday but we have 10 people in this house that have to have a working bathroom. I need a plumber today. We have had issues like this in the past but it backed up in the basement now it's the toilette Let me know what time they will be by. This can not be put off even a day.

2 March 2014: To Gordon:

Gordon I worked on it for hours after I emailed you and Heather did when she got home. It finally flushed. So that being said. Please get a plumber here on Monday.

2 March 2014: To Dustin, Heather: I called couple of plumbers, but neither could come today... But tomorrow is ok for them.

Why don't you call and arrange for one to fit your time tomorrow -

I will not cash your \$300 check so that you pay directly to him - my guess is that it will be less than \$300; But we can settle up later.

2 March 2014: To Jim: *(co-landlord, wintering at his house in Mexico)*

Just to keep you in the loop..

Naughty Mary suggested that this is why Dustin and Heather have been "full of shit" recently..

Hope your Mexican plumbing is working well - 3 inches more snow here today

3 March 2014: To Dustin, Heather:

Have you arranged for a plumber to visit? Let me know when you do -

We will need a receipt for the work. thanks

3 March 2014: To Gordon:

Dustin called and left a message with a plumber. They are supposed to call back to set up a time.

They said that it should be less than \$300, unless there is further complications. I will let you know and get the receipt to you after they come out. Thanks

5 March 2014: To Gordon:

The plumber came out and said that a new toilet needs to be put in because the flap in the base of the toilet is defective. He suggested that you buy a new toilet from lowes or menards. The plumber can come back and install it once it is here For \$175. Let me know how to proceed.

6 March 2014: To Dustin, Heather:

I can go buy a new toilet, but let me see the present one first - is it downstairs or upstairs? -Let me know what time is best to come over today - call me at my cell - 514-4009 thanks

7 March 2014: *I looked and measured the ineffective toilet in the downstair bathroom.*

7 March 2014: To Dustin, Heather:

I left the box containing the new toilet in the back - it is quite heavy so i did not lift it up the stairs.

9 March 2014: To Dustin, Heather:

Re - putting in the new toilet:

I just talked with Marcelo: - he is the handyman who did the repair work around the house last summer - He can put in your toilet on tuesday if you have not already done it - Can you please call him to arrange a time - his phone number is 574-262-6880 thanks

Gordon Note: *I believe Marcelo never touched the toilet last summer.; in fact it may be the original toilet present when we bought the house eight years ago.*

9 March 2014: To Gordon:

Plumber is set to come out tomorrow. I tried to do it thought it would be easy but what I uncovered was not. Your handy man claimed to have replaced the wax ring last summer once I removed the toilet I discovered a wax ring that looked many years old. I hope he didn't charge you much because he must have not done a thing to it. Like you said before I will get you the receipt and we can settle up on the difference.

10 March 2014: *Went over to talk to the plumbers (Aaron Assoc.) - they claimed not enough room for the new toilet - they claim we need to buy a new "special order" shorter toilet - I made measurements and discussed alternatives, since i do not want to buy another, probably more expensive, toilet. I note that there is no flap in the bottom of the old toilet - just a lot of shit narrowing the flushing section.*

11 March 2014: To Dustin, Heather:

I just left 2 wax rings and an electric fret saw on your back porch - I suggest you try the following

1 - see if putting in just the thick wax ring does the trick - if not try it with two.

2 - if neither of these works, try cutting into the wall board behind the toilet -

We need only 1 inch extra space, and the wall is about 3 inches thick - with various 2 by 4s Cutting away the wall board in a rectangle, leaving about 2 inches above the tank and 1 inch on either side, then cutting down, probably about half way down the tank. If you have an exacto knife that would probably be enough to cut the wall board - otherwise use the little fret saw.

let me know if you need help.

12 March 2014: To Dustin, Heather:

I am assuming you are able to finish off the toilet installation. I leave town tonight and will be back on monday morning - i will deposit the \$300 check as i leave.

17 March 2014: To Dustin, Heather:

I am back in town - I assume you got the new toilet in ok - If you did, you can deduct \$100 for your work from the latest rent check - so you can now leave us a rent check for \$200 (14 March).

17 March 2014: To Gordon:

Dustin added the extra wax rings to the toilet. He did not cut the wall, because he did not want to cause any damage to the wall. It is no longer leaking and is working good. That seems to have fixed the problem . I will drop the rent check off tonight. Thank you

18 March 2014: To Dustin, Heather:

Please bring the little saw over when you drop off the check - it should be fine at the back door till i get back this afternoon

19 March 2014: To Dustin, Heather:

Thank you for the \$200 rent check and the electric saw.

Here endeth "The Two-week Tale of the Toilet".