

Market Transformation Programme

**Update on general activities for NWCG
and... leaky valves**

Carmen Waylen – Product Area Manager

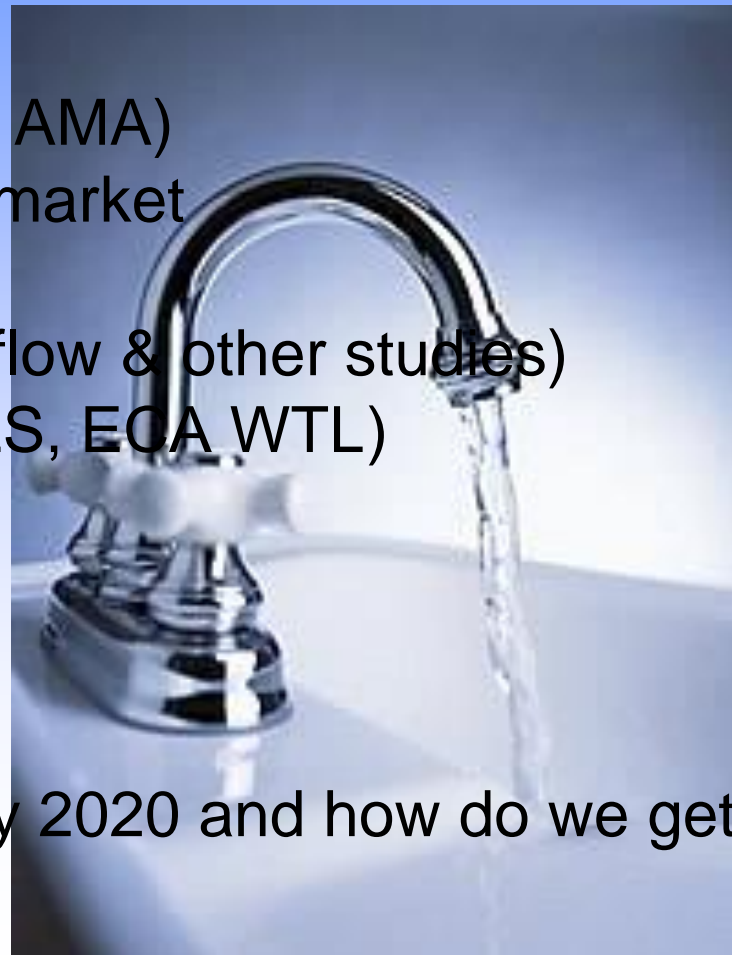
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What are we currently working on?

- Taps
 - Currently installed (BMA & AMA)
 - Currently available on the market
 - Relevant technologies
 - Water consumption (identiflow & other studies)
 - ‘Water efficient’ tap? (WELS, ECA WTL)
 - Limitations
 - Trends
 - Future?
 - Policy influence
 - Where do we want to be by 2020 and how do we get there?



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- Showers
 - Plumbing systems
 - Energy/carbon footprint
 - User experience
 - Electric versus mixer
 - What is suitable?
 - What is 'best'



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- Hot tubs scoping study nearing completion
- Recycling showers innovation study nearing completion
- Product workshops for WCs & Showers – 31st October!

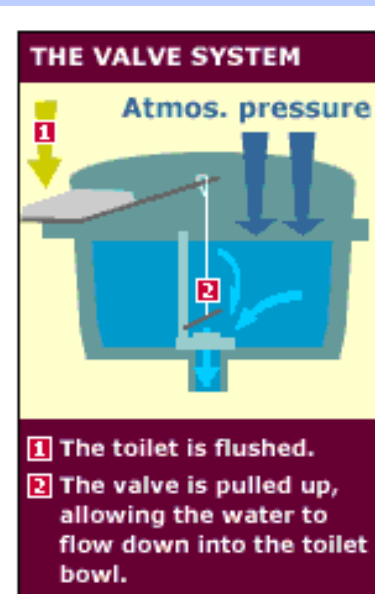
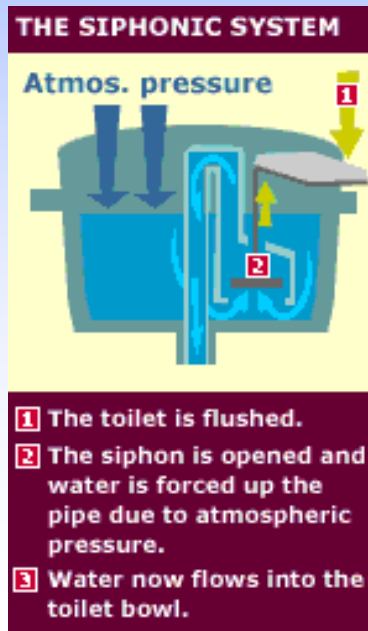
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Leaky valves – effective installations

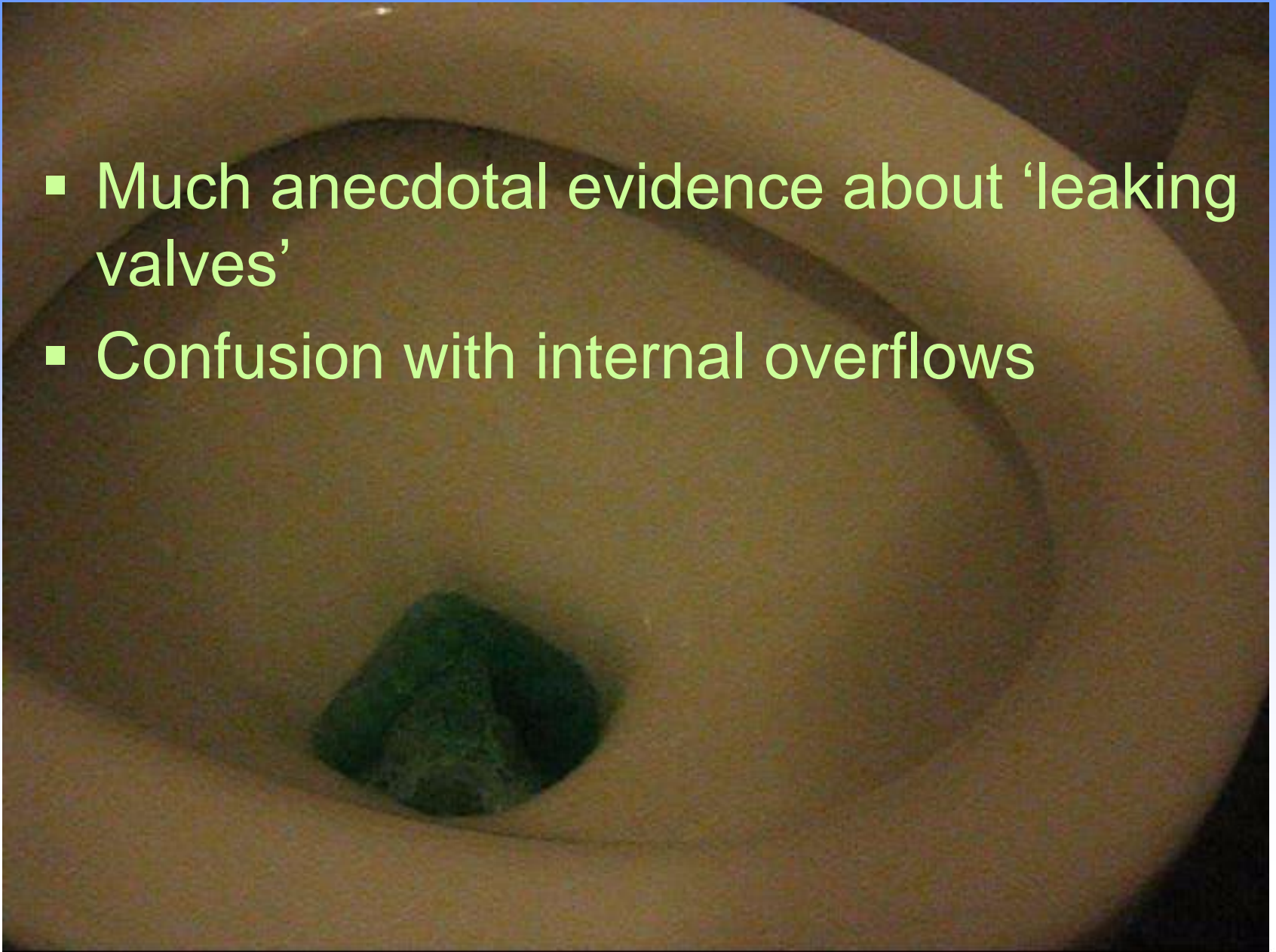
- There are two types of flushing mechanisms used in WC's today, siphons and valves.



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- Much anecdotal evidence about 'leaking valves'
- Confusion with internal overflows




What could cause a leaky valve?

- Swarf or scale on the valve seat (obvious, but not common);
- Poor seating of valve due to incorrect installation;
- Poor seating of valve due to distortion of plastic cisterns during installation;
- Jamming of the valve mechanism due to lime scale deposits;
- Partial opening of the valve due to incorrect adjustment or assembly of button mechanisms;
- Cracked plastic components (valves tend to use more rigid and brittle plastics than siphons because of precision required);
- Accidental damage caused by curious plumbers and DIY enthusiasts.

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What are MTP doing?

- Contacted all water companies
- Article in IPHE magazine asking for plumber-side information
- Contacted WRAS for information

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“A new bathroom had been fitted 3 weeks previously by Dolphin Bathrooms, and included was a macerating WC. The resident was continuously being awoken in the night by loud noises coming from the bathroom. When investigated, it was found the valve was leaking, causing water to enter the pan, and trigger the macerator.”

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“I have three WC’s in my house, Ideal Standard with lifting valve mechanisms, the house was new 4 years ago and they fail about once a day. I disassembled the valve mechanism; there was slimy detritus on bottom of rubber washer on 1 of 3. The other 2 failing can only be attributed to poor engineering of valve mechanism and finishing.”

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“In the first case, a combination of faulty float valve and slime around all submerged components was causing the flush valve to continually overflow. The slime was not letting the valve seat properly allowing water to pass through the valve itself, as well as overflow.”

“In the second case, use of cistern cleaning blocks had caused the rubber seals at the bottom of the valve to break down, allowing water to continually seep under the valve into the toilet bowl.”

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What can we do next? – Ideas for a future program to gather data to enable the scale of the problem to be quantified.

Questions?

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