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Housewares Show: Flush a lot, or a little

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Steve Miller Reporting

CHICAGO (WBBM) -- Organizers of the International Home and Housewares Show say 60,000 people are in town for this year's show at McCormick Place.

WBBM's Steve Miller paid a visit to the trade show - and found a local inventor.

If you travel to a lot of other countries, you may have noticed their flush toilets are different.

You have the option to flush a lot - or not as much. And if you flush not as much, you save water.

That's the idea behind the invention of Michael Schuster of Shorewood, who designed a dual flush converter that can be used in your existing toilet.

"This whole unit literally slides straight down and installs in ten minutes. My seven-year-old installed ours at our house."

But then, Schuster is a fourth generation plumber.

Cost of the HydroRight: \$25.

"Press the upper button for liquid and paper and hit the lower button for... more," he explains.

Among the thousands of other products at the show is a new product that someday might be waking you up - or putting you to sleep.

You're at home. In bed. But that sound. It's like you're outside under the stars. With a campfire.

WBBM: Is this 'Campfire' to wake up by or to go to sleep by?

"These are natural sleep sounds. This is the Rise and Shine by Verilux and it has a variety of different sounds."

Lisa Casey Weiss is lifestyle consultant for the International Housewares Association.

"You can set it to wake up by or to go to sleep by."

And the light gradually gets brighter.

Amazon Evening.

Bells.

Breathe.

Rain.

For some, it might be safer to stick with the bells.

Weiss says nearly 2,000 exhibitors are at the show, including more than 500 new companies.

The Housewares Show is among the top 5 trade shows in Chicago. It's committed here through 2011, but after that, things are uncertain.

The cost of doing business at McCormick Place has forced show organizers to consider other cities, such as Las Vegas and Orlando, says Phil Brandl, president of the [International Housewares Association](#).

Housewares Show organizers say about 60,000 people are here this year - up slightly from last year - when attendance was down.

The Housewares Show is for retailers and industry representatives, not the general public.

The show has been coming to Chicago since 1939. It will run through Tuesday, March 16.

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