



Fix a Leak Week

March 16 to 20, 2009, marks the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's WaterSense program's first "Fix a Leak Week," a time to remind Americans to check their household fixtures and irrigation systems for leaks.

The Facts on Leaks

- Leaks account for large amounts of water wasted in the home—on average, more than 11,000 gallons per home per year.
- The amount of water leaked from U.S. homes could exceed more than 1 trillion gallons per year.
- 10% of homes have leaks that waste 90 gallons or more per day.
- Common types of leaks found in the home include leaking toilet flappers, dripping faucets, and other leaking valves.
- Fixing easily household water leaks can save more than 10% on water bills.
- Be leak-free by repairing dripping faucets, toilet valves, and showerheads.
- The vast majority of leaks can be eliminated after retrofitting a household with new WaterSense labeled fixtures and other high-efficiency appliances.

Leak Detection

- A good method to check for leaks is to examine winter water usage. It's likely that a family of four has a serious leak problem if its winter water use exceeds 12,000 gallons per month.
- Check the water meter before and after a two-hour period when no water is being used. If the meter does not read exactly the same, there is probably a leak.
- One way to find out if the toilet leaks is to place a drop of food coloring in the toilet tank. If the color shows up in the bowl without flushing, there is a leak.

Faucets and Showerheads

- A leaky faucet that drips at the rate of one drip per second can waste more than 3,000 gallons per year. A home with WaterSense labeled toilets could use that water to flush for six months!
- Reduce faucet leaks by checking faucet washers and gaskets for wear and replacing them if necessary. If you are replacing a faucet, look for the WaterSense label.
- A showerhead leaking at 10 drips per minute wastes more than 500 gallons per year. That's enough water to wash 60 loads of dishes in the dishwasher.
- Most leaky showerheads can be fixed by ensuring a tight connection using pipe tape and a wrench.

Toilets

- A constantly running toilet wastes 200 gallons of water or more every day.
- If the toilet is leaking, the cause is most often an old, faulty toilet flapper.
- Look for a WaterSense labeled model. If a family of four replaces its older, inefficient toilets with new WaterSense labeled ones, it could save more than 16,000 gallons per year and approximately \$2,000 in water and wastewater bills over the lifetime of the toilets.



Supporting
Eco-Friendly Products

Think **GREEN**
Think First Supply