

Every Drop Counts

More than 1 trillion gallons of water are wasted in U.S. homes each year from easy-to-fix leaks. That's why Gwinnett County Department of Water Resources is participating in Fix a Leak Week www.epa.gov/watersense/fixaleak, March 14 through 20, 2011, and we encourage you to join us.

Sponsored by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) WaterSense® program as part of the We're for Water campaign, this week is an opportunity to improve the water efficiency of your home by finding and fixing leaks. In the average home, household leaks waste more than 10,000 gallons of water each year. That's enough to wash nearly 10 months' worth of laundry!

Here's how to identify leaks around your home:

- Read your water meter before and after a two-hour period when no water is being used. If the meter changes at all, you probably have a leak.
- Winter months are the prime time to check water use and see if you may have a leak. If a family of four exceeds 12,000 gallons per month in the winter, you probably have leaks!

Here's how you can address leaks found at home:

- **Check for leaks.** Look for dripping faucets, showerheads, and fixture connections as well as toilets with silent leaks, by putting a few drops of food coloring into the tank and seeing if it appears in the bowl before you flush. Don't forget to check irrigation systems and spigots too.
- **Twist and tighten pipe connections.** To save more water without a noticeable difference in flow, twist on a WaterSense labeled faucet aerator.
- **Replace the fixture if necessary.** Look for WaterSense labeled models, which are independently tested and certified to use 20 percent less water and perform as well as or better than standard models.

Local Events

As a WaterSense partner concerned with preserving our nation's water supply, Gwinnett County can help you learn more. **On Saturday March 19, 2011, representatives from the Department of Water Resources will be on site at the Lowe's store at 1615 Scenic Highway in Snellville.** Our staff will show you how to calculate your family's daily water use from your water bill and we'll explain how to check for leaks using your water meter. We will have toilet leak detection kits to give away along with information on how you can save money by participating in our Toilet Rebate Program. Staff from Lowe's will also be on hand to teach you how to repair common leaks in your home and advise on the selection of replacement parts and water efficient fixtures. If you cannot attend the event at Lowe's on Saturday, be sure to stop by the Department of Water Resources customer service lobby at 684 Winder Highway during the week of March 14, 2011 for more information on fixing household leaks.

Get Involved

Mark your calendar: Fix a Leak Week is March 14 through 20, 2011. Grab a wrench or contact your favorite handy person, plumber, or WaterSense irrigation partner to address leaking toilets, faucets, showerheads, and irrigation systems around your home.

- Take the Fix a Leak Week pledge http://www.facebook.com/EPAWatersense?v=app_7146470109&ref=ts
- “Like” WaterSense on Facebook www.facebook.com/EPAwatersense and follow WaterSense on Twitter www.twitter.com/EPAwatersense for the latest tips and events.
- Visit the WaterSense website to learn more www.epa.gov/watersense/fixaleak.