

The Facts on Leaks

- Leaks can waste 10,000 gallons of water in the home annually, enough to fill a backyard swimming pool.
- Water leaked from U.S. homes could exceed 1 trillion gallons annually.
- Ten percent of homes have leaks that waste 90 gallons or more per day.
- Common types of household leaks include leaking toilet flappers, dripping faucets, and other leaking valves.
- Fixing easily corrected household water leaks can save homeowners more than 10 percent on their water bills.
- Keep your home leak-free by repairing dripping faucets, toilet valves, and showerheads. In most cases, fixture replacement parts don't require a major investment and can be installed by do-it-yourselfers.
- The vast majority of leaks can be eliminated after retrofitting a household with new WaterSense labeled fixtures and other high-efficiency appliances.

(Over)

Leak Detection:

- A family of four may have serious leaks if winter water use exceeds 12,000 gallons per month.
- Check your water meter before and after a two-hour period when no water is being used. If the meter does not read exactly the same, you may have a leak.
- Add a few drops of food coloring in the toilet tank. If the color shows up in the bowl within 15 minutes without flushing, you have a leak.

Faucets & Showerheads:

- One drip per second from a leaky faucet can waste 3,000 gallons of water per year.
- Check 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 your dishwasher.
- Most leaky showerheads can be fixed by tightening with a wrench and use of pipe tape.

Toilets:

- A running toilet can waste 200 gallons of water or more every day.
- Faulty toilet flappers cause leaks. Replace the whole rubber flapper—a relatively easy, inexpensive do-it-yourself project that pays for itself in no time.
- Look for a WaterSense labeled toilet if you must replace one. This can save a family of four up to 16,000 gallons per year or about \$250 in water and wastewater bills annually.

Outdoors:

- Check irrigation systems each spring for damage by frost or freezing.
- An irrigation system with pressure set at 60 pounds per square inch and with a leak the diameter of a dime can waste about 6,300 gallons of water per month.
- Consult with a certified WaterSense irrigation partner to check underground systems.
- If a garden hose leaks at its spigot connection replace the nylon or rubber hose washer and ensure a tight connection to the spigot.

For more information on leaks, go to www.epa.gov/watersense.