



Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago

Press Release

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MWRD, U.S. EPA offer water conservation tips during Fix a Leak Week March 12–March 18 Simple flapper fix can save 200 gallons of water per day

The Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRD) has joined the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) and other water-oriented agencies in promoting Fix a Leak Week March 12 through March 18.

The week is intended to remind homeowners, renters and landlords to look at household fixtures and irrigation systems to check for leaks. The MWRD will be issuing reminders each day this week to prompt Cook County residents to check and fix any leaks around their property.

According to the U.S. EPA, leaks account for approximately 10,000 gallons of water wasted per home each year, which is enough to fill a backyard swimming pool. Ten percent of homes have leaks that waste 90 gallons or more per day.

In most home, water is often wasted in toilets. If yours is running constantly, you could be wasting 200 gallons of water or more every day.

The cause of most toilet leaks is usually a faulty toilet flapper. The inexpensive rubber part decays or minerals build up over time. It is usually best to replace the whole rubber flapper—a relatively easy and inexpensive do-it-yourself project that quickly pays for itself.

If you do need to replace the entire toilet, look for a WaterSense model. If a family of four replaces its older, inefficient toilets with new WaterSense labeled ones, more than 16,000 gallons per year could be saved. Retrofitting the house could save the family approximately \$2,000 in water and wastewater bills over the lifetime of the toilets.

“It’s important that we pay attention to all the ways water escapes from our homes because this water can work its way into our sewer system and contribute to flooding or basement backups,” said MWRD Executive Director David St. Pierre. “There is never a bad time to have a licensed plumber check all of your household water fixtures, but sometimes it only takes a minute to replace an old flapper with a new one.”

More information about the MWRD can be found at www.mwrdd.org or by following the MWRD at www.facebook.com/metropolitanwaterreclamationdistrict and www.twitter.com/mwrddgc.

More information about Fix a Leak Week can be found at www.epa.gov/watersense/our_water/fix_a_leak.html.

Our water environment...Take it personally.

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Established in 1889, the MWRD (www.mwrdd.org) is an award-winning, special purpose government agency responsible for wastewater treatment and stormwater management in Cook County, Illinois.