

## Fix-a-Leak Week is March 17-23, 2014

Leaks can account for more than 10,000 gallons of water in an average home every year—enough water to wash nearly 10 months' worth of laundry! To address this waste, askHRgreen.org is promoting EPA's "Fix-a-Leak Week," March 17-23, 2014, and encouraging Hampton Roads residents to put a stop to running toilets, dripping faucets and other household leaks.

"Don't let your money go down the drain," said Julia B. Hillegass, public information and community affairs administrator for the Hampton Roads Planning District Commission, which oversees askHRgreen.org. "A leaky faucet wastes both water and your hard-earned dollars. 'Fix a Leak Week' is a wake-up call for you to check your fixtures and make repairs."

The askHRgreen.org experts advise taking the "Check, Twist and Replace" test:

- 1. Check for leaks.** Look for dripping faucets, showerheads and fixture connections. Also check for 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.
- 2. Twist and tighten pipe connections.** To save more water, without a noticeable difference in flow, twist on a WaterSense labeled faucet aerator.
- 3. Replace the fixture if necessary.** Look for WaterSense labeled models, which are independently certified to use 20 percent less water and perform as well as or better than standard models.

In many cases, fixture replacement parts pay for themselves quickly and can be installed by handy do-it-yourselfers or local plumbing professionals. For more information on finding and fixing leaks, please visit [askHRgreen.org](http://askHRgreen.org).