

## **Finding and fixing water leaks saves dollar and make sense**

***Learn how to DIY for Fix-a-Leak Week, March 18-24***

(Hampton Roads, Va., March 13, 2024) – Is the drip, drip, drip in the bathtub driving you mad? It is also increasing your water bill and wasting valuable H<sub>2</sub>O here in Hampton Roads. Finding and fixing leaks in your home, yard and workplace is the focus of **Fix-a-Leak Week, March 18-24**, an annual EPA awareness event supported locally by [askHRgreen.org](http://askHRgreen.org).

“Every drop adds up, in terms of money and wasted resources,” said Rebekah Eastep, an askHRgreen.org team leader. “Repairs such as these are easy to do and can save you about 10 percent on your water bill.”



### **Finding leaks in your home**

To check for leaks at home, first determine whether you are inadvertently wasting water. If so, identify the source of the leak, Eastep said. Start by looking at water usage during a colder month. If a family of four exceeds 12,000 gallons per month, there are serious leaks to be found.

Identify toilet leaks by placing a drop of food coloring in the toilet tank. If any color shows up in the bowl after 15 minutes, you have a leak. Examine faucet gaskets and pipe fittings for any water on the outside of the pipe to check for surface leaks. Showerhead leaks are obvious. These types of leaks are often easy to fix, requiring only a few tools and hardware which you will recoup in water savings.

### **What to look for outside of your home**

If you have an in-ground irrigation system, check it each spring before use for damage from frost or freezing. An irrigation system that has a leak 1/32nd of an inch in diameter (about the thickness of a dime) can waste about 6,300 gallons of water per month. If you need help, hire an irrigation professional certified by the WaterSense program to inspect it for you. These

professionals have passed a certification program focused on water efficiency. They will not only help you detect and correct leaks in the system, but also maximize the way it works.

### **Finding leaks at your workplace**

Be on the lookout at work as well. If you notice a leak in the company restroom, communal kitchen or outdoor area, report it to the maintenance staff. Sizeable companies or building owners may want to organize Fix-a-Leak Week events, to challenge employees and tenants to find leaks and report water waste. And business owners and management can also place signs in restrooms and other areas, encouraging everyone to look for leaks and report problems (and who to contact if they find them).

While devoting a week to the cause is admirable, Eastep and her team want residents to remember that year-round fix-a-leak efforts will save them valuable water and money all year long.

“The longer you wait, the more of your money and our region’s precious water resources will go right down the drain,” Eastep said.

For more tips about smart water use, visit [askHRgreen.org](http://askHRgreen.org) [at this link](#).

**About askHRgreen.org** Celebrating its 10th anniversary this year, [askHRgreen.org](http://askHRgreen.org) is your go-to resource for all things green in Hampton Roads – from recycling tips and pointers for keeping local waterways clean to water-saving ideas and simple steps to make local living easy on the environment. Launched in 2011, the region-wide public awareness and education campaign is administered through the Hampton Roads Planning District Commission and powered by the following members: The cities of Chesapeake, Franklin, Hampton, Newport News, Norfolk, Poquoson, Portsmouth, Suffolk, Virginia Beach, and Williamsburg; the counties of Gloucester, Isle of Wight, James City, Southampton, Surry and York; the town of Smithfield; and HRSD. Like [askHRgreen.org](http://askHRgreen.org) on [Facebook](#), follow on [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#), tune in to [YouTube](#) and catch the “Let’s Talk Green” [blog](#), written by a team of local experts.

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