

Arizona Department of Water Resources

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NEWS
RELEASE



Jan Brewer,
Governor
Herb Guenther,
Director

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Public Information Office
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ADWR, EPA launch 'Fix A Leak Week' March 16-20

Minor water leaks waste more than 1 trillion gallons* of water each year in U.S. homes. To encourage Americans to check their household plumbing and irrigation systems for leaks, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has declared March 16-20 as the *WaterSense*SM program's initial "Fix a Leak Week."

"Arizona has been practicing wise water management for years through the Groundwater Code, water banking, and use of reclaimed water," said Herb Guenther, Director of the Arizona Department of Water Resources. "We are very happy now joining with EPA to encourage water efficiency inside and outside the home, where major water waste can occur silently and sometimes out of sight."

The EPA chose Arizona to kick off "Fix a Leak Week" nationwide. *WaterSense*SM partners in Arizona will demonstrate – using visual displays at a Phoenix resident's home - the water wasted by common leaks in just one week.



The display includes a leaky toilet, leaky faucets and a showerhead. EPA and ADWR will illustrate how household leaks easily can waste more than 200 gallons in seven days. Participants will identify leak sources inside the home and demonstrate how to fix them.

EPA chose Arizona as its partner because ADWR won the EPA *WaterSense*SM Challenge, a national competition to enlist the greatest number of local agencies in the *WaterSense*SM program.

"The conservation ethic is building across Arizona," said ADWR conservation coordinator Marjie Risk. "There's great response from cities and public agencies to get behind these efforts. Everywhere I travel in Arizona I hear, 'What can we do? How can we help?' "

*WaterSense*SM was developed by EPA in the hope it will mirror the success of the *Energy Star*TM program. The *Energy Star*TM label can be found on more than 50 different kinds of products, new homes as well as schools and commercial buildings, cooking and cooling products.

*WaterSense*SM partners are promoting ways to identify and repair dripping faucets, running toilets, and leaky showerheads. In most cases, fixture replacement parts can be installed by do-it-yourselfers and will pay for themselves in no time. Following are a few water-saving tips:

- Reduce faucet leaks by checking faucet washers and gaskets for wear and, if necessary, replace the faucet with a *WaterSense*SM labeled model.
- Leaky toilets are most often the result of a worn toilet flapper. Replacing the rubber flapper is a quick fix that could save a home up to 200 gallons of water per day.
- For a leaky garden hose, replace the nylon or rubber hose washer and ensure a tight connection to the spigot using pipe tape and a wrench.
- Landscape irrigation systems should be checked each spring before use to make sure they are not damaged by a winter freeze.

If homeowners have to replace a plumbing fixture, EPA reminds them to look for the *WaterSense*SM label. More than 250 *WaterSense*SM labeled toilets and 700 faucets have been independently tested and certified to save water and perform as well as or better than standard models.

*WaterSense*SM also partners with more than 600 certified landscape irrigation auditors, designers, installers, and maintenance professionals with water-efficiency knowledge; see www.epa.gov/watersense to find a *WaterSense*SM irrigation partner in your area. For more information on Fix a Leak Week, visit www.epa.gov/watersense/fixaleak. For more on the Arizona Department of Water Resources, general water conservation information and water efficient technologies see: www.azwater.gov.

DID YOU KNOW?

- If every homeowner in Phoenix replaced existing toilets with *WaterSense*SM labeled models, it would save more than 5 billion gallons of water annually and save residents more than \$30 million on water bills. That's enough water to supply nearly 60,000 homes--12 percent of Phoenix's population-- for a year.
- Letting a faucet run 5 minutes uses as much energy as letting a 60-watt bulb run 14 hours.
- A showerhead leaking 10 drops per minute can waste enough water to do 60 loads in your dishwasher.
- Household leaks can waste up to 11,000 gallons a year – enough to fill a swimming pool.

-- Source: EPA

** 1 trillion gallons of water = 3 million acre-feet - or enough water for all the households in New York City for one year; also, it is more than Arizona's annual allocation of Colorado River water (2.8 maf).*

For additional information, contact:

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