



Fix a Leak Week

March 16-20, 2009

Is your toilet leaking?

1. Drop these tablets into your toilet tank, and wait a few minutes. Do not flush the toilet.
2. If the toilet water turns blue, the seal around the flapper is leaking water from the tank to the bowl.

Fixing the Leak:

A common reason why toilets will leak is an old or worn out toilet flapper; which is sometimes called a "valve seal." Flappers are inexpensive rubber parts that can build up minerals or decay over time. Replacing them can be a quick and easy fix for your water woes. To fix this leak, consult your local hardware store, home improvement retailer, plumber, or one of the many online resources.

Tip:

Bring the old flapper to the hardware store for comparison to make sure you buy a new flapper that fits your toilet model.

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What is Fix a Leak Week?

March 16 to 20, 2009, marks the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's WaterSense program's first "Fix a Leak Week," a time to remind Americans to check their household fixtures and irrigation systems for leaks.

Know the Facts:

- Leaks can account for, on average, 11,000 gallons of water wasted in the home every year, which is enough to fill a backyard swimming pool.
- The amount of water leaked from U.S. homes could exceed more than 1 trillion gallons per year. That's equivalent to the annual water use of Los Angeles, Chicago, and Miami combined.
- Ten percent of homes have leaks that waste 90 gallons or more per day.
- 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.

For more information about New Jersey Water Conservation efforts, please call 732-932-9800 x 6129.

Gearing up for Gardening Season



Over watering is one of the most common mistakes made in lawn care. Once a lawn is established, water it only when needed during very dry periods, giving it only as much water as the soil can absorb. Moisten the soil to a depth of six inches, which usually means using about an inch of water. Avoid frequent shallow watering of established turf; it will cause shallow rooting, invite crabgrass invasion and encourage disease. Water early in the day; this will help reduce the amount of water lost to evaporation and the likelihood of disease.

To reduce the need for watering your garden, use plants that are drought tolerant such as many native species. Also, place plants with similar watering requirements together. This way if you choose to use plants that have higher watering requirements, you will only need to water a small section of the garden.

The water saving garden rain gauge is an accurate way to determine the volume of irrigation water or rainfall so that over-watering of lawns and gardens is prevented.

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Check with your local nursery for specific plant requirements, and adjust your watering accordingly.

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- Landscaping for Water Conservation
A Guide for New Jersey
<http://www.njaes.rutgers.edu/pubs/>
- Water Wise Landscaping & Watering
Guide
<http://www.wateruseitwisely.com>
- New Jersey Nursery and Landscaping
Association
<http://www.gardennj.net>
- Office of the NJ State Climatologist
<http://climate.rutgers.edu/stateclim>



Indoor Water Conservation Tips

An average person in the United States uses 125-150 gallons of water per day. About 75% of the indoor water use is in the bathroom.

By using a Shower Coach™ Shower Timer you can promote water conservation habits in your home.

- Simply rotate the Shower Coach™ half a turn when you start your shower; stop when the last grains of sand fall
- Total time = 5 minutes
- A great tool for adults and children to help change shower habits
- Requires no assembly or maintenance
- Large suction cup for great holding power
- Safe, durable, ultra break resistant



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