



Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago

Press Release

Allison Fore

Public Affairs Specialist

312.751.6633

publicaffairsinfo@mwrdd.org

100 East Erie Street, Chicago, Illinois 60611

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MWRD, U.S. EPA offer water conservation tips during Fix a Leak Week March 12–March 18 Precious natural resource requires wise water use

The amount of water U.S. homes leak each year could exceed more than one trillion gallons per year, equivalent to the annual water use of Los Angeles, Chicago, and Miami combined.

To encourage the public to reduce the amount of water leaked and potentially prevent flooding and basement backups, 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 to promote Fix a Leak Week March 12 through March 18.

The majority of leaks can be eliminated by retrofitting old household appliances with new WaterSense labeled fixtures and other high-efficiency appliances. In fact, if one in every 10 American homes were to upgrade all bathroom appliances with WaterSense-labeled fixtures, we could save about 74 billion gallons of water and about \$1.6 billion on our utility bills nationwide per year.

Common types of leaks found in the home include leaking toilet flappers, dripping faucets, and other leaking valves, all of which can be easily fixed.

You can make 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 yourself.

"Water is our most precious natural resource and using water wisely helps save this vital resource for future generations," said MWRD Executive Director David St. Pierre.

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.