



Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago

Press Release

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Outdoor leaks contribute to water waste

MWRD, U.S. EPA offer water conservation tips during Fix a Leak Week March 12 – March 18

Outdoor spigots, hose connections and irrigation systems should be checked each spring before use to make sure there is no damage caused by winter frost or freezing.

These are tips offered by the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRD), the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) and other water-oriented agencies which are promoting Fix a Leak Week March 12 through March 18.

A simple task is to check your garden hose for leaks where it connects to the spigot. If it leaks while you run your hose, replace the nylon or washer and ensure a tight connection using pipe tape and a wrench.

An irrigation system with pressure set at 60 pounds per square inch that has a leak 1/32nd of an inch in diameter, or about the thickness of a dime, can waste about 6,300 gallons of water per month.

To ensure that your in-ground irrigation system is not leaking water, consult with a licensed plumber.

“Illinois winters, especially those in the Chicago region, are known to wreak havoc on household water systems,” explained MWRD David St. Pierre. “A good rule of thumb is to visually inspect your water connections indoor and out, fixing those smaller tasks when possibly and contacting a licensed plumber for more advanced repairs. It is important to prevent excess water from entering our sewers so that they have maximum capacity for when heavy downpours hit the area.”

More information about the MWRD can be found at www.mwr.org or by following the MWRD at www.facebook.com/metropolitanwaterreclamationdistrict and www.twitter.com/mwrorgc.

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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