



Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago

# Press Release

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## Simple flapper fix can save 200 gallons of water per day

*MWRD, U.S. EPA offer water conservation tips during Fix a Leak Week March 17 – March 23*

The Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRD) has joined the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) and other water partners in promoting Fix a Leak Week March 17 through March 23, 2014.

The week is intended to remind homeowners, renters and landlords to look at household fixtures and irrigation systems to check for leaks.

According to the U.S. EPA, leaks account for approximately 10,000 gallons of water wasted per home each year, which is enough to fill a backyard swimming pool. Ten percent of homes have leaks that waste 90 gallons or more per day.

In most homes, water is often wasted in toilets. If yours is running constantly, you could be wasting 200 gallons of water or more every day.

The cause of most toilet leaks is usually a faulty toilet flapper. The inexpensive rubber part decays or minerals build up over time. It is usually best to replace the whole rubber flapper—a relatively easy and inexpensive do-it-yourself project that quickly pays for itself.

If you do need to replace the entire toilet, look for a WaterSense model. If a family of four replaces its older, inefficient units with those labeled as WaterSense, more than 16,000 gallons per year could be saved. Retrofitting the house could save the family approximately \$2,000 in water and wastewater bills over the lifetime of the toilets.

It's important that we pay attention to all the ways water escapes from our homes because this water can work its way into our sewer system and contribute to flooding or basement backups. There is never a bad time to have a licensed plumber check all of your household water fixtures, but sometimes it only takes a minute to replace an old flapper with a new one.

More information about the MWRD can be found at [www.mwrdd.org](http://www.mwrdd.org) or by following the MWRD at [www.facebook.com/metropolitanwaterreclamationdistrict](https://www.facebook.com/metropolitanwaterreclamationdistrict) and [www.twitter.com/mwrddgc](https://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](http://www.epa.gov/watersense/our_water/fix_a_leak.html).

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**Our Water Environment: Take it personally.**

*Established in 1889, the MWRD ([www.mwrdd.org](http://www.mwrdd.org)) is an award-winning, special purpose government agency responsible for wastewater treatment and stormwater management in Cook County, Illinois.*