



For Immediate Release

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Fix-A-Leak Week Means Water Conservation and Efficiency

Springfield – The Illinois Commerce Commission joins the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) this week to commemorate National Fix-A-Leak Week.

Household leaks account for more than 1 trillion gallons of water each year. Sponsored by [EPA's Water Sense Initiative](#), the eighth annual Fix-A-Leak program encourages consumers and businesses to save water and protect the environment by identifying and fixing leaks.

A member of the NARUC Water Committee, Chairman Brien Sheahan reminded consumers of the cost of leaks, both for the environment and consumer pockets, stating, "10 percent of homes have leaks that waste 90 gallons or more of water per day. Not only is this wasteful for the environment, where water is already such a valuable resource, but it is also a loss in consumer dollars," Sheahan said. "Fix-A-Leak Week is a great opportunity to take proactive measures at home to save."

The ICC reminds consumers of the following measures they can take to identify and fix leaks at home:

- Check toilets – if continually draining and refilling, the plunger ball or flapper valve may need to be replaced. If water flow doesn't shut off after flushing, you may have to adjust or replace the float ball.
- Listen to faucets – if they keep dripping even after being tightly closed, the problem is most likely a worn or improperly fitted washer. Washerless faucets may need to be rebuilt or replaced.
- Check utility rooms - water dripping down the side of the hot water heater tank and accumulating on the floor below is often a sign that the pressure valve release isn't working properly.
- Look for pools of water – if you find water on the floor around your dishwasher or washing machine, you may have a leak.
- Check garden hoses, outdoor irrigation and swimming pools for leaks once the ground thaws.
- Read your meter - check your water meter before and after a two-hour period when no water is being used. If the meter changes at all, you probably have a leak.

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About the Illinois Commerce Commission

The Illinois Commerce Commission's mission is to pursue an appropriate balance between the interests of consumers and existing and emerging service providers to ensure the provision of adequate, efficient, reliable, safe and least-cost public utility services. The Commission pursues this mission through three bureaus: The Bureau of External Affairs, which provides educational information on utility issues for consumers, governmental entities and communities and through its Consumer Services Division, resolves customer/utility disputes and develops rules on utility service and consumer protection; the Public Utilities Bureau, which focuses on financial and operational analysis, policy development, public safety and enforcement activities related to electric, natural gas, water, sewer and telecommunications companies; and the Transportation Bureau, which includes trucking insurance and registration, railroad safety, relocation towing, safety towing and household goods moving company enforcement activities. The ICC's five commissioners are appointed by the Governor and approved by the Illinois State Senate for five-year terms.