



ICC Reminds Water Consumers March 18-24 is Fix a Leak Week

Springfield, IL – The Illinois Commerce Commission (ICC) is encouraging Illinoisans to check their household plumbing fixtures and irrigation systems for leaks as a part of national Fix-a-Leak Week this March 18-24. Approximately 1 trillion gallons of water are wasted in the United States each year due to leaks, but inexpensive fixes can help consumers to conserve water and save money.

“The average American household loses more than 10,000 gallons of water each year from leaking faucets, running toilets, and dripping showerheads. That’s enough to fill a swimming pool,” said **ICC Chairman Doug Scott**. “Fix a Leak Week reminds consumers to find and fix leaks that with minor fixes, can conserve water and save consumers up to 10 percent on their utility bills.”

EPA’s WaterSense® program has several tips to help detect and fix leaks:

- Look at your cold weather month water bills. You likely have a serious leak if your water usage exceeds 12,000 gallons in one month for a family of four or less or you see spikes on your water bill from previous months.
- Read your water meter before and after a two-hour period when no water is being used. Any changes to the meter mean you have a leak.
- Place a few drops of food coloring into the tank of your toilet. If after ten minutes the color shows up in the bowl, you have a leak.
- Replace old and worn-out toilet flappers to stop a running toilet.
- Make sure there is a tight connection between your showerhead and pipe stem to stop leaks. Pipe tape or Teflon tape, which can be purchased at hardware stores, is easy to apply to control minor leaks. For serious showerhead leaks, contact a licensed plumber.
- Replace worn-out faucet washers and gaskets to stop faucet leaks. Be sure to turn off the water line before starting repairs.

Uncertain about how to do the work on your own? There are several online tutorials to help fix minor leaks or call a licensed plumber or experienced handyman.

For more tips on how to find and fix indoor and outdoor leaks for homes and businesses visit the [EPA’s website](#).

About the Illinois Commerce Commission

The Illinois Commerce Commission (ICC) is a quasi-judicial body made up of five Commissioners. Through its Public Utility Program, the Commission oversees the provision of adequate, reliable, efficient, and safe utility services at the least possible cost to Illinois citizens served by electric, natural gas, telecommunications, water, and sewer public utility companies. Through its Transportation Regulatory Program, the Commission oversees public safety and consumer protection programs with

regard to intrastate commercial motor carriers of general freight, household goods movers, relocation towers, safety towers, personal property warehouses and repossession agencies. The Commission's Rail Safety Program also inspects and regulates the general safety of railroad tracks, facilities, and equipment in the state.

To learn more about the Commission, its offices, and bureaus, click [here](#). If you are a consumer who needs help resolving a utility dispute call 800-524-0795 or file an online complaint [here](#). For a complaint related to transportation, call 217-782-6448.

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