

SNWA, U.S. EPA unite to promote national Fix a Leak Week, March 14-20

Southern Nevada residents can do their part to conserve the region's most precious natural resource—water—and save their hard-earned money at the same time during national Fix a Leak Week, March 14-20.

The Southern Nevada Water Authority (SNWA), in partnership with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) WaterSense program, is offering tips and ideas on how to avoid costly water leaks which can waste more than 1 trillion gallons nationally—equal to the annual water use of more than 11 million homes.

At first blush a simple leak may not seem especially severe; however, the amount of water lost to household leaks can quickly add up. For example, a faucet leaking at the rate of one drip per second can waste more than 3,000 gallons per year—roughly the amount of water needed to take more than 180 showers; a showerhead leaking at 10 drips per minute wastes more than 500 gallons per year, or enough water to wash 60 loads of dishes in your dishwasher. Toilets that run constantly can waste more than 200 gallons of water every day.

Faulty landscape irrigation systems and swimming pool automatic fill valves also can waste water and contribute to high water bills. However, fixing these and other easily corrected household water leaks can save homeowners more than 10 percent on their water bills, according to the EPA, and as much as 11,000 gallons of water a year. Simple repairs include replacing a faulty toilet flapper or replacing worn washers and gaskets on leaky faucets.

To help local customers find and fix hidden leaks in their homes, the SNWA has tips and instruction on its website, snwa.com. The SNWA also offers free Indoor Water Audit and Retrofit kits so residents can test their fixtures. To request a kit, call the Conservation Helpline at 258-SAVE (7283).