

# Fix-A-Leak



Toilets,  
Sinks,  
Faucets,  
Showers  
and More!

CITY OF RALEIGH  
PUBLIC UTILITIES DEPARTMENT

*Our Water, Our Future!*

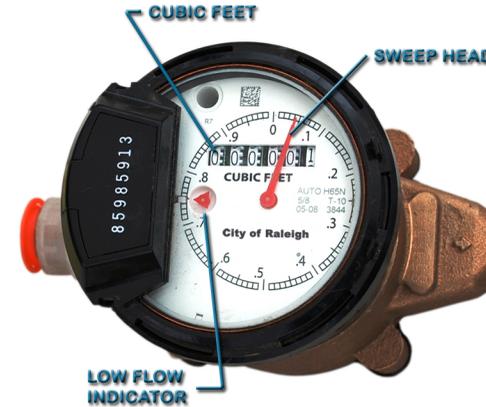
## Conduct a Water Efficiency Checkup!

Find a leak by checking your water bill regularly and noting any inconsistencies. Additionally, reading the meter occasionally can help determine leaks. To increase the accuracy of the reading, make sure that no water is being used before checking the meter.

Water meters are usually located in front of the home or business and near the street. Wearing gloves is a good idea when checking the meter as they provide protection from snakes and spiders. Remove the cover slowly, being cautious not to damage the wires.

Look at the red triangle on the bottom left of the meter; this is the low-flow indicator. If the arrow spins then there is a leak and you will need to perform an audit to determine the location of the leak.

Contact a local Green Plumber today for your Water Efficiency Checkup, or check the City's website, for the Water Efficiency Manual!  
[www.raleighnc.gov](http://www.raleighnc.gov)



## WASTED WATER FROM LEAKING FAUCETS



30  
DROPS  
PER  
MINUTE



54  
GALLONS  
PER  
MONTH



60  
DROPS  
PER  
MINUTE



113  
GALLONS  
PER  
MONTH



3 FLUID OUNCES  
PER  
MINUTE



1014  
GALLONS  
PER  
MONTH



6 FLUID OUNCES  
PER  
MINUTE



2202  
GALLONS  
PER  
MONTH



## City Incentive Programs:

The City currently offers several efficiency incentives:

- WaterSense Toilet Rebates
- FREE Flow-wise faucet aerators
- FREE Flow-wise kitchen sink aerators
- FREE Flow-wise showerhead swap-out
- FREE leak detection dye tablets
- FREE flow-measuring bags

Come to the Public Utilities main office location to pick up your free aerators, showerhead, and your toilet rebate application:

The City of Raleigh  
Public Utilities Department  
One Exchange Plaza, Suite 620  
Raleigh, NC 27601  
Phone: 857.4540  
[www.raleighnc.gov](http://www.raleighnc.gov)



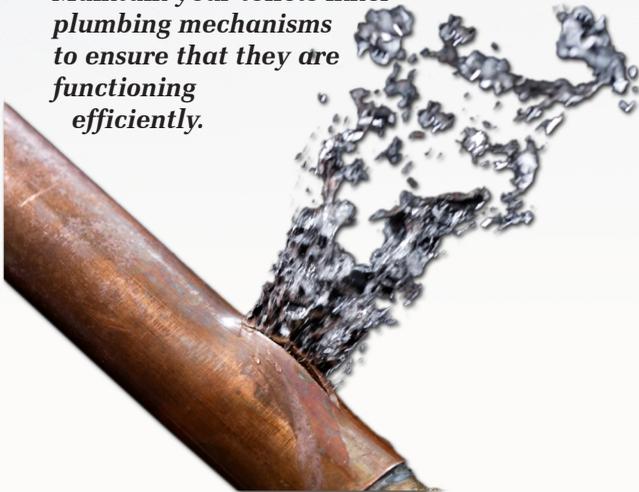
# Leaks are a drain on the world!

## Did you know that:

- Each year more than one trillion gallons of water are wasted in U.S. homes due to leaks?
- A leaky toilet can waste more than 200 gallons per day?
- In one year, the average household loses enough water because of leaks to fill an entire swimming pool?
- Many people don't know where their main shut-off valve is. Do you know where yours is located?
- Most leaks are easy to detect and fix!

## Toilets:

- Toilets are a prime source of leaks within the home, and can account for up to 30 percent of indoor domestic water usage.
- Running toilets can waste enough water in one day for at least 25 five-minute showers with a High Efficiency showerhead.
- Many toilets as they age use more water than the manufacturer's rating. Maintain your toilets inner plumbing mechanisms to ensure that they are functioning efficiently.



- The most common toilet leak is due to the flapper. Test it by placing dye tablets (or food coloring) in the toilet tank. Wait 15 minutes and check to see if there is any dye in the toilet's bowl. If so, then you have a leaky flapper.
- The life of a flapper isn't very long, and may need to be replaced often. Check the flapper routinely and replace it when there are signs of a leak.
- Ensure to use the correct flapper for the toilet or it won't seal properly, causing another leak.
- Some signs of a leak include: needing to jiggle the handle, running water sounds when it is not in use, rippling water in the bowl after it has filled.



## Faucets:

- Leaky faucets that drip at the rate of one drip per second can waste more than 3,000 gallons per year. That is enough water to flush the toilets in a WaterSense labeled home for six months!
- Leaky faucets can lead to large water bills and enormous water waste. Check your local hardware store for the necessary replacement parts, or consider replacing the entire fixture with a new High Efficiency WaterSense labeled one!
- Leaky aerator? Come to the City of Raleigh Public Utilities main office for your free 0.5 gallon per minute, flow-wise aerator.

- Leaky faucet pipes? Small leaks will quickly turn into large leaks! Call a plumber to get the job done right.
- Leaky outdoor faucet? Try replacing the washer and "O" ring.



## Shower & Bath:

- A showerhead leaking at 10 drips per minute wastes more than 500 gallons per year. That's enough water to wash 60 loads of dishes in your dishwasher.
- Replace a leaky showerhead with a new WaterSense labeled one and watch your water usage drop.
- Pooling water or tub stains are signs of a leak. Call a plumber today to fix that leak!
- PTFE thread seal tape, or "plumber's tape" is a great way to stop leaks on threaded pipes. It can be used on indoor or outside faucets, on water hoses, showerheads and aerators.



## The WaterSense Label:

The WaterSense label was created by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to identify the most efficient

water-using fixtures on the market. WaterSense labeled products have been independently tested to use 20 percent less water than the current Federal Plumbing Standards and to ensure high performance.

Currently, there are more than 34 WaterSense labeled flushing urinals, 81 WaterSense labeled showerheads, 559 WaterSense labeled toilets, 1,912 WaterSense labeled faucets and faucet accessories, and 959 certified irrigation partners.

## Green Plumbers:

Green Plumbers are those who have received national training and accreditation regarding the latest water and energy efficient technologies. A Green Plumber can perform a water audit and identify how water is wasted and what the best efficiency solutions are for your home or business. Find a local Green Plumber today via:

[www.greenplumbersusa.com](http://www.greenplumbersusa.com)

