



# Public Service Commission of Wisconsin

Eric Callisto, Chairperson  
Mark Meyer, Commissioner  
Lauren Azar, Commissioner

610 North Whitney Way  
P.O. Box 7854  
Madison, WI 53707-7854

---

For Immediate Release – March 1, 2010

Contact: Timothy Le Monds or Teresa Smith (608) 266-9600

## **PSC and DNR: Consumers Can Save Water** ***“Fix a Leak Week” March 15–21, 2010***

MADISON — Don't mistake dripping noises this winter for the sound of melting snow. It could be a leaking faucet, running toilet, or dripping shower. Because minor water leaks account for more than 1 trillion gallons of water wasted each year in U.S. homes, the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin (PSC) and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) are promoting “Fix a Leak Week,” March 15 through 21, 2010.

Fix a Leak Week is sponsored by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's WaterSense program as an annual reminder to Americans to check household plumbing fixtures and irrigation systems for leaks.

“Leaks can add up to more than 10,000 gallons of water wasted at home every year—that's enough to fill a backyard swimming pool,” said PSC Chairperson Eric Callisto. “The PSC encourages communities to participate in Fix a Leak Week to help homeowners save money on their water and sewer bills and to help protect our water resources for future generations.”

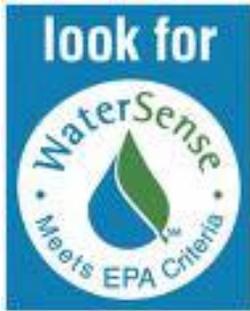
“By taking some simple water saving steps at home, we can all contribute to sustainable water use in Wisconsin,” said DNR Secretary Matthew Frank. “We can help assure that Wisconsin has the clean water we need for healthy families, a healthy economy, and a healthy environment.”

The PSC and DNR encourage homeowners and landlords to repair dripping faucets, running toilets, and leaky showerheads. In most cases, fixture replacement parts pay for themselves quickly and are easy to install. Here are a few water-saving tips:

- Reduce faucet leaks by checking faucet washers and gaskets for wear and, if necessary, replace the faucet with a WaterSense labeled model.
- Leaky toilets can be caused by a worn-out toilet flapper. Replacing the rubber flapper is a quick fix that could save a home as much as 200 gallons of water per day.
- For a leaky garden hose, replace the nylon or rubber hose washer and ensure a tight connection to the spigot using pipe tape and a wrench.
- Landscape irrigation systems should be checked each spring before use to make sure they were not damaged by frost or freezing.

-more-

If it is necessary to completely replace a plumbing fixture, consumers are encouraged to ask for products with the WaterSense label. WaterSense labeled toilets, faucets, and showerheads have been independently tested and certified to save water and perform as well as or better than standard models.



PSC informational brochures and bill stuffers are available at:  
<http://psc.wi.gov/hotTopics/fixALeakWeek.htm>

For more information Fix a Leak Week visit:  
[www.epa.gov/watersense/fixaleak](http://www.epa.gov/watersense/fixaleak).

(END)