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Leaks Can Run but They Cannot Hide Put an end to leaky fixtures during “Fix-a-Leak Week,” March 16-22

(Hampton Roads, Va., March 10, 2020) – Some household leaks are easy to spot, like the drip, drip, drip of a faucet. Slow, hidden leaks, however, can be harder to find—unless you do a little sleuthing. To mark “Fix-a-Leak Week,” March 16-22, askHRgreen.org is inviting Hampton Roads residents to channel their inner detective and chase down suspicious leaks.

“Many common household leaks are quick to find and easy to fix, such as dripping faucets and leaky showerheads,” said Katie Cullipher, who heads up the askHRgreen.org public awareness and education initiative. “Water heater drips, slow leaking appliances and broken irrigation systems are less noticeable. You may not be aware of these issues unless you look closely.”

It takes just 10 minutes to track down leaks by following these easy steps:

- **Examine your water bills.** Compare your bills from month to month and look for spikes —is your water use a lot higher this month than it was last month?
- **Read your water meter.** Take a reading during a two-hour period when no water is being used. If the meter does not read exactly the same after two hours, you probably have a leak. (For detailed instructions on reading a water meter, [check this link](#).)
- **Test the toilet.** Put a few drops of food coloring into the tank at the back of your toilet and let it sit for 10 minutes. If color shows up in the bowl, you have a leak. And don’t forget to flush when you’re done testing.

According to [WaterSense](#), a voluntary partnership program sponsored by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the average household's leaks can account for nearly 10,000 gallons of water wasted every year and 10 percent of homes have leaks that waste 90 gallons or more per day. That’s enough water to fill a swimming pool.

“Don’t wash your money down the drain,” Cullipher said. “A leaky faucet wastes both water and your hard-earned dollars. ‘Fix-a-Leak Week’ is a wake-up call for you to check your fixtures and make repairs.”

For more tips and information about identifying and fixing leaks in your home, visit WaterSense at www.epa.gov/watersense/fix-leak-week. For news of all things green in Hampton Roads, visit www.askHRgreen.org.

For images, visit [this link](#).

About askHRgreen.org

askHRgreen.org is your go-to resource for all things green in Hampton Roads – from recycling tips and pointers for keeping local waterways clean to water-saving ideas and simple steps to make local living easy on the environment. Launched in 2011, the region-wide public awareness and education campaign is administered through the Hampton Roads Planning District Commission and powered by the following members: The cities of Chesapeake, Franklin, Hampton, Newport News, Norfolk, Poquoson, Portsmouth, Suffolk, Virginia Beach, and Williamsburg; the counties of Gloucester, Isle of Wight, James City, Southampton, Surry and York; the town of Smithfield; and HRSD. Like askHRgreen.org on [Facebook](#), follow on [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#), tune in to [YouTube](#) and catch the “Green Living” [blog](#), written by a team of local experts.