



For Immediate Release

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Fix a Leak Week Starts Monday

Water leaks are costly, and can be even costlier than you might expect.

To remind consumers about leaks and the need to fix them, the Indiana Office of Utility Consumer Counselor (OUCC) is joining with the water utility industry, fellow consumer advocates, and additional partners through the US EPA'S WaterSense initiative to observe Fix a Leak Week from Mar. 18 through Mar. 24.

"This is an important annual reminder to check your home or business for any leaks, and to repair them as quickly as you can," said Indiana Utility Consumer Counselor Bill Fine. "Some leaks are obvious while others are not. But as they waste water, they waste your money, too."

Consumers should perform three tests regularly.

First, check all faucets in your home or business to make sure they are not dripping. They can be repaired inexpensively.

- If a faucet drips twice per second and goes unrepaired for a month, it will waste almost 520 gallons of water.
- If the same faucet isn't repaired for a year, the wasted water will add up to more than 6,200 gallons. (As an example, if a consumer is billed at a rate of \$7.00 per 1,000 gallons, such a leak would cost \$43.40. The leak would also increase the consumer's sewer bill if it is calculated based on water usage.)

Second, don't underestimate the amount of water a leaky toilet can waste. Toilets can waste hundreds of gallons every day.

- Put a few drops of food coloring in the toilet tank and wait 20 minutes.
- If any food coloring shows up in the toilet bowl, you have a leak.
- Flush the toilet right away to keep the food coloring from causing stains.

Lastly, make sure your home or business doesn't have an "invisible" water leak, such as a leak in the underground supply line connecting the utility's main to the building.

- Turn off all faucets and appliances that use water.
- Read your water meter, then don't use any water for a half-hour.
- Read your meter again. If it has moved, then you have a leak and may need to contact the utility for further assistance.

For more tips, visit the OUCC's website at www.in.gov/oucc/2394.htm. Consumers without Internet access can call the agency toll-free at 1-888-441-2494 to request a copy by mail.

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The Indiana Office of Utility Consumer Counselor (OUCC) represents Indiana consumer interests before state and federal bodies that regulate utilities. As a state agency, the OUCC's mission is to represent all Indiana consumers to ensure quality, reliable utility services at the most reasonable prices possible through dedicated advocacy, consumer education, and creative problem solving.

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