



Important Notice

May 2023

Westchester Joint Water Works Asks Residents and Office Customers to Check Their Irrigation Systems, Use Water Wisely and “Fix a Leak”

Westchester Joint Water Works (WJWW), as well as the Town of Harrison, The Town of Mamaroneck and the Village of Mamaroneck are again encouraging their residents and commercial customers to check their irrigation systems, use water wisely and look for and fix any leaks in homes and office buildings. Below are simple facts that homeowners should be aware of regarding irrigation systems and leaks in household fixtures.

All WJWW customers with irrigation systems are reminded of the following:

- The system requires approval from WJWW and must be installed by a qualified contractor and needs to have a backflow prevention device.
- The system must be properly winterized in the fall before the onset of cold-freezing weather.
- The system and the backflow device must be properly tested for leaks before the start of the irrigation season; and
- The systems should have its own sub-meter to help determine how much water is actually used for irrigation.
- An irrigation system should be checked each spring before use to make sure it was not damaged by frost or freezing.
- An irrigation system with pressure set at 60 pounds per square inch that has a leak 1/32nd of an inch in diameter (about the thickness of a pen point) can waste about 6,300 gallons of water per month.
- To ensure that your in-ground irrigation system is not leaking water, consult with an irrigation specialist who has passed a certification program focused on water efficiency.
- Check your garden hose for leaks at its connection to the spigot. If it leaks while you run your hose, replace the nylon or rubber hose washer and ensure a tight connection to the spigot using pipe tape and a wrench.

The Facts on Leaks:

- Leaks can account for, on average, 10,000 gallons of water wasted in the home every year, which is enough to fill a backyard swimming pool.
- The amount of water leaked from U.S. homes could exceed more than 1 trillion gallons per year. That's equivalent to the annual water use of Los Angeles, Chicago, and Miami combined.
- Ten percent of homes have leaks that waste 90 gallons or more per day.
- Common types of leaks found in the home include leaking toilet flappers, dripping faucets, and other leaking valves. All are easily correctable.
- Fixing easily corrected household water leaks can save homeowners more than 10 percent on their water bills.
- Keep your home leak-free by repairing dripping faucets, toilet valves, and showerheads. In most cases, fixture replacement parts don't require a major investment and can be installed by do-it-yourselfers.
- The vast majority of leaks can be eliminated after retrofitting a household with new fixtures and other high-efficiency appliances.

Leak Detection:

- A good method to check for leaks is to examine your winter water usage. It's likely that a family of four has a serious leak problem if its winter water use exceeds 12,000 gallons per month.
- Check your water meter before and after a two-hour period when no water is being used. If the meter does not read exactly the same, you probably have a leak.
- One way to find out if you have a toilet leak is to place a drop of food coloring in the toilet tank. If the color shows up in the bowl within 15 minutes without flushing, you have a leak. Make sure to flush immediately after this experiment to avoid staining the tank.

Faucets and Showerheads:

- A leaky faucet that drips at the rate of one drip per second can waste more than 3,000 gallons per year.
- Leaky faucets can be reduced by checking faucet washers and gaskets for wear and replacing them if necessary.
- 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.
- Most leaky showerheads can be fixed by ensuring a tight connection using pipe tape and a wrench.

Toilets:

- If your toilet is running constantly, you could be wasting 200 gallons of water or more every day.
- If your toilet is leaking, the cause is most often an old, faulty toilet flapper. Over time, this inexpensive rubber part decays, or minerals build up on it. It's usually best to replace the whole rubber flapper—a relatively easy, inexpensive do-it-yourself project that pays for itself in no time.
- If a family of four replaces its older, inefficient toilets with new one, it could save more than 16,000 gallons per year. Retrofitting the house could save the family approximately \$2,000 in water and wastewater bills over the lifetime of the toilets.

Important Reminder: As per Article 4, Sec. 3 of WJWW Rules and Regulations, the owner hereby accepts responsibility for payment of water that passes through the premises' water meter, whether used or wasted due to leaks or other problems.

For more information visit www.epa.gov/watersense/fixaleak as well as www.wjww.com