



FORSYTHCOUNTY
Department of Communications
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FORSYTH COUNTY PROMOTES EPA'S FIX A LEAK WEEK
MARCH 15-21, 2010

Citizens reminded to check for, repair water leaks

FORSYTHCOUNTY, Georgia – Minor water leaks account for more than one trillion gallons of water wasted each year in U.S. homes. That is why the Forsyth County Water and Sewer Department is promoting Fix a Leak Week March 15 through 21, 2010. Fix a Leak Week is sponsored by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA'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, which is enough to fill a backyard swimming pool,” Director of Water and Sewer Tim Perkins said. “Forsyth County is participating in Fix a Leak Week to help our residents save money on their utility bills and to help save water in our community and for future generations.”

To help consumers here in Forsyth County save water, the Forsyth County Water and Sewer Department and WaterSense are promoting ways to identify and repair dripping faucets, running toilets, and leaky showerheads. In most cases, fixture replacement parts pay for themselves quickly and can be installed by do-it-yourselfers, your favorite handy person, plumber or WaterSense irrigation partner. The following 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.

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- Leaky toilets are most often the result of a worn toilet flapper. Replacing the rubber flapper is a quick fix that could save a home with a constantly running toilet up to 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 are not damaged by frost or freezing.

If homeowners have to replace a plumbing fixture, Forsyth County reminds them to look for the WaterSense label. WaterSense-labeled toilets, faucets, and (soon) showerheads have been independently tested and certified to save water and perform as well as or better than standard models. WaterSense also partners with certified landscape irrigation auditors, designers, installers and maintenance professionals. Visit www.epa.gov/watersense to find a WaterSense labeled product or an irrigation partner in your area.

Another step Forsyth County Water and Sewer Department has taken to promote water efficiency is through participation in the Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District's toilet rebate program. The program is designed as an incentive for Forsyth County Water and Sewer Department customers to replace older, inefficient toilets. For additional details about the toilet rebate program, visit www.forsythco.com or www.northgeorgiawater.org/toiletrebate.

For more information on Fix a Leak Week, visit www.epa.gov/watersense.

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