



Indiana Office of Utility Consumer Counselor

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## Fix a Leak Week Starts Monday

Water leaks cost consumers substantial amounts of money every year, no matter how small they may seem on the surface. To remind consumers about leaks and the need to repair them, the Indiana Office of Utility Consumer Counselor (OUCC) is joining with the water utility industry, other consumer advocates, and regulatory agencies in observing Fix a Leak Week from March 17 through 23.

“Fix a Leak Week is an important annual reminder to check your home or business for any water leaks, and to repair them as quickly as possible,” said Indiana Utility Consumer Counselor David Stippler. “Visible and invisible water leaks alike can waste significant amounts of consumers’ money over the long haul.”

Consumers should perform three tests regularly.

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

- If a faucet drips once per second and goes unrepaired for a month, it will waste almost 260 gallons of water.
- If the same faucet isn’t repaired for a year, the wasted water will add up to more than 3,100 gallons. (As an example, if a consumer is billed at a rate of \$7.00 per 1,000 gallons, such a leak would cost \$21.70. The leak would also increase the consumer’s sewer bill if it is calculated based on water usage.)

Second, be aware that a leaky toilet can waste hundreds of gallons each day. You can check toilets for leaks following these simple steps:

- Put a few drops of food coloring into the toilet tank.
- Wait between 15 and 20 minutes before flushing.
- If any food coloring shows up in the toilet bowl after 15 or 20 minutes, you have a leak.
- Whether you have a leak or not, flush the toilet right away to keep the food coloring from causing stains.

Finally, it is important to check for unseen or “invisible” water leaks, such as a leak in the underground supply line running to your home or business. You can do this by:

- Shutting off all faucets and appliances that use water.
- Reading your water meter and not using any water for a half-hour.
- Reading your meter again. If it has moved, then you have a leak and may need to contact the utility for further assistance.

For more water-saving tips, visit the OUCC’s website at [www.in.gov/oucc/2394.htm](http://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. Visit us at [www.IN.gov/OUCC](http://www.IN.gov/OUCC), [www.twitter.com/IndianaOUCC](https://www.twitter.com/IndianaOUCC), or [www.facebook.com/IndianaOUCC](https://www.facebook.com/IndianaOUCC).