

The Facts on Water Leaks



10% of homes have leaks that waste **90 gallons** or more per day. Household leaks waste **10,000+ gallons** of water every year*.
(*Average U.S. household)



Minor water leaks account for nearly **1 trillion** gallons of wasted water each year, which is equal to annual household water use in nearly **11 million** homes.



Repairing household leaks not only reduces water and energy waste; It can also save homeowners an average of **10 percent** on their water bills.

Water leaks can have significant health and economic impacts, which disproportionately affect underserved and under-represented communities.

BACKFLOW

Backflow is the undesired flow of water in the reverse direction (back into a home).

It can have serious health risks; if water flows from the sewer back into a home, it can contain contaminants such as human waste and toxic chemicals.

HEALTH IMPACT OF LEAKS

Water leaks can also create an environment that allows the growth of fungi (mold/mildew) that can be detrimental to human health.

Stagnant water in the home (from leaky pipes) can attract disease-carrying pests, like mosquitoes.

ECONOMIC IMPACT OF LEAKS

Leaks and backflow can cause damage to a home and increase utility bills.

Underserved and under-represented communities are often disproportionately impacted by the health risks and economic costs of water leaks.

Fix A Leak Week is part of the larger Focus on Water Initiative, commissioned by the Office of the Clean Water Public Advocate. To learn more about Fix a Leak Week, how to get involved, and other clean water initiatives in Michigan, please visit:

Michigan.gov/FixALeakWeek