

Fix a Leak Week Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

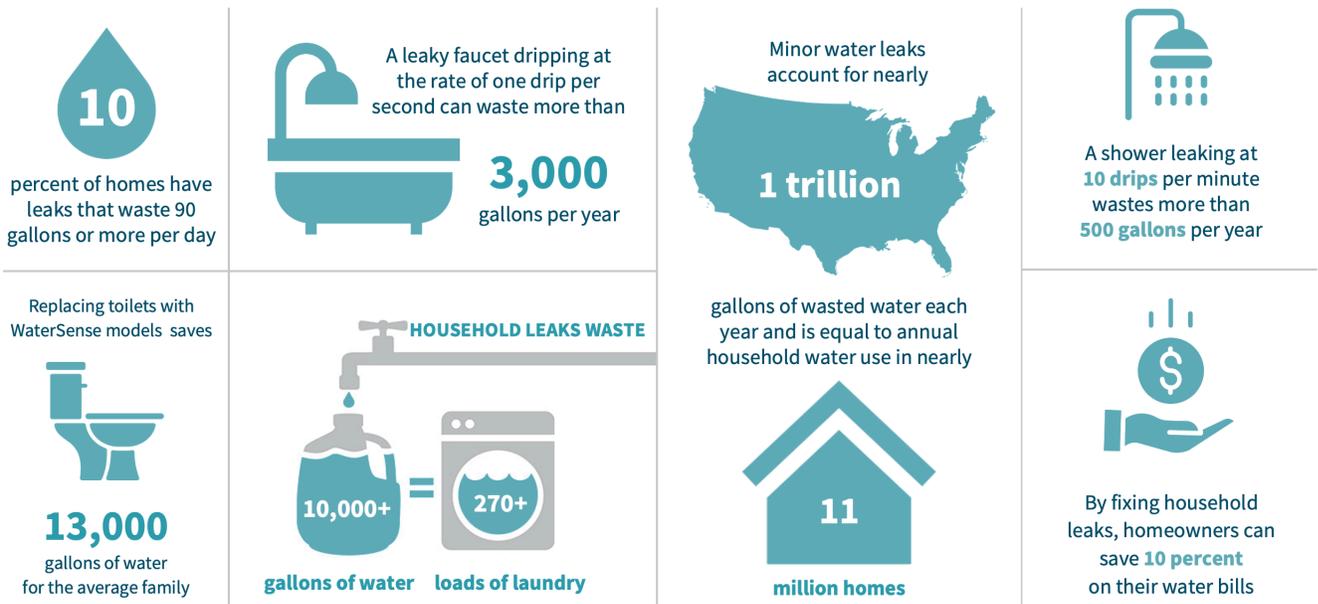
1 What is Fix a Leak Week?

Fix a Leak Week, promoted by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) WaterSense program, is an annual reminder to Americans to check household plumbing fixtures and irrigation systems for leaks. In 2021, Governor Gretchen Whitmer signed a proclamation to establish Fix a Leak Week in Michigan, in conjunction with National Fix a Leak Week.

2 When is Fix a Leak Week?

Fix a Leak Week is observed during the third week of March each year. In 2021, Fix a Leak Week will be observed March 15 – 21.

3 What are the facts on water leaks in the U.S.?



Source: epa.gov

4 What are the health risks associated with water leaks?

Water leaks and backflow (the undesired flow of water in the reverse direction) can have serious health risks. If water flows from the sewer system back into your home, it can often contain contaminants such as human waste and toxic chemicals. Water leaks can also create an environment that allows the growth of fungi (mold/mildew) that can be detrimental to human health, especially for people with pre-existing conditions.

5 What other impacts do water leaks have on communities?

Water leaks and backflow can be costly; leaks and backflow can cause damage to your home and increase your utility bills.

Water leaks in low-income communities are compounded by system inequities that may contribute to access and affordability issues. If a resident is unable to pay their water bill, they may lose their health, their home, and their children/family.

6 How can I check for water leaks in my home?

The first step in checking for water leaks in your home is to read your water bill. Reading your water bill can help determine if your water use is unusually high. Visit <https://bit.ly/EPAwaterbill> to learn more about understanding your water bill.

If you suspect you have a leak, you can follow the Water Leak Audit checklist to check for leaks around your home (by completing a visual inspection). You can find the Water Leak Audit here: <https://bit.ly/FALwateraudit>

7 How can I prevent water leaks in my home?

There are a few ways to prevent water leaks in your home, including: checking plumbing fixtures to ensure they are not damaged, twisting and tightening plumbing connections, and, if possible, replacing old or broken plumbing fixtures. This video outlines the steps you can take to prevent leaks: <https://bit.ly/FALpreventleaks>

8 Are there programs available to assist with plumbing repairs?

Yes, Michigan does have a number of programs throughout the state to assist with plumbing repairs. Please contact your local water department or community action agency to determine if resources are available in your community.

9 How do I get involved with Fix a Leak Week as a resident?

Residents can raise awareness by sharing materials from the [Fix a Leak Week Toolkit](#) or helping organize a Fix a Leak Week event in your community. You can also learn more about the impact of water leaks by reviewing and sharing the Fix a Leak Week educational materials and educate your friends, family, and community members.

If you are interested in being part of other clean water initiatives in Michigan, consider signing up to be a Clean Water Ambassador at Michigan.gov/CleanWater.

10 How do organizations join the Fix a Leak Week Partnership?

There are a number of opportunities for organizations to promote Fix a Leak Week and support clean water initiatives. Organizations that are interested in joining the Fix a Leak Week Partnership and/or hosting an event can contact EGLE-CleanWater@Michigan.gov.