

SAVING WATER CAN SAVE YOU MONEY

Water leaks in your home cost you money. According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), small household leaks can add up to gallons of water lost every day. The EPA reminds everyone to check their plumbing fixtures and irrigation systems for leaks each year.

According to the EPA, household leaks can waste more than 1 trillion gallons of water a year nationwide. For example, a leaky faucet dripping at the rate of one drip per second can waste more than 3,000 gallons per year. That's the amount of water needed to take more than 180 showers. A showerhead leaking at 10 drips per minute wastes more than 500 gallons a year—that's the amount of

"Water is a valuable resource that we need to use wisely," said Public Service Commission Chairman Ryan Silvey. "There are several things that you can do to conserve water, which not only helps you save money on your water bill but also helps protect the value of your biggest investment, your home."

water it takes to wash 60 loads of dishes in your dishwasher.

The EPA states the average household's leaks can account for nearly 11,000 gallons of water wasted every year and 10 percent of the homes have leaks that waste 90 gallons or more of water a day.

Common types of leaks found in the home include: worn toilet flappers, dripping faucets and other leaking valves. According to the EPA, fixing easily corrected household water leaks can save homeowners about 10 percent on their water bill.

Here are some tips to save water:

- Check for leaks. Silent toilet leaks can be found by putting a few drops of food coloring into the tank and seeing if color appears in the bowl before you flush. Don't forget to check irrigation systems and spigots, too.
- Twist and tighten pipe connections.
- Replace the fixture if necessary.
- Plug up the sink or use a wash basin if washing dishes by hand.
- Install a water saving showerhead; they use one-third the amount of water that a regular showerhead uses.
- Turn off the tap while shaving or brushing teeth.
- Store drinking water in the refrigerator instead of letting the faucet run until the water is cool.

For more information, please visit the Missouri Public Service Commission website at www.psc.mo.gov or the EPA at www.epa.gov/watersense/fix-leak-week.