



**For Immediate Release**



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**Public Service Commission of South Carolina and the  
Office of Regulatory Staff Promote EPA's Fix-a-Leak Week March 12-18**

The Public Service Commission of South Carolina (PSC) and the Office of Regulatory Staff (ORS) are teaming up to promote *Fix-a-Leak Week* March 12 through 18, 2012. Sponsored by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) WaterSense® program, *Fix-a-Leak Week* is an annual reminder to Americans to check household plumbing fixtures and irrigation systems for leaks.

According to the EPA, minor water leaks account for more than 1 trillion gallons of water wasted each year in U.S. homes. Per household, that figure can mean more than 10,000 gallons of water wasted a year – enough to fill up a backyard swimming pool.

The PSC and the ORS are promoting *Fix-a-Leak Week* to help consumers in South Carolina save money on their utility bills and to help conserve water in our communities for future generations. PSC Chairman Butch Howard says, "As chairman of the NARUC Committee on Water, I am aware of the current issues facing our water companies. I would like to encourage consumers to do their part to use this vital resource wisely and check their plumbing and irrigation systems for leaks."

Specifically, the PSC, ORS, 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 a do-it-yourselfer, handyman, plumber, or WaterSense irrigation partner. 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.

- 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, the PSC and the ORS remind them to look for the WaterSense label. WaterSense-labeled toilets, faucets, and 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](http://www.epa.gov/watersense) to find a WaterSense labeled product, or an irrigation partner in your area.

For more information on *Fix-a-Leak Week*, visit [http://www.epa.gov/watersense/our\\_water/fix\\_a\\_leak.html](http://www.epa.gov/watersense/our_water/fix_a_leak.html)

*The Public Service Commission serves the public by providing fair, open, and effective regulation of the state's public utilities, through the faithful administration of the law and the regulatory process. For more information, please visit the PSC web site at <http://www.psc.sc.gov/>.*

*The Office of Regulatory Staff is an agency of the State of South Carolina. Its mission is to represent the public interest in utility regulation by balancing the concerns of the using and consuming public, the financial integrity of public utilities, and the economic development of South Carolina. For more information, please visit the ORS web site at <http://www.regulatorystaff.sc.gov/>.*

*WaterSense, a partnership program sponsored by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, seeks to protect the future of our nation's water supply by offering people a simple way to use less water. For more information on WaterSense, and for a full list of labeled products and WaterSense irrigation and builder partners, visit [www.epa.gov/watersense](http://www.epa.gov/watersense).*

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