



Household Water Leaks Waste A Trillion Gallons Each Year

Many people don't realize the amount of water and money wasted down the drain each year. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) sponsors Fix a Leak Week to remind people to check for leaks to combat the problem.

We encourage customers to find and fix leaks both inside and outside to help you save valuable water and money during Fix a Leak Week – this year, March 14-20 – and all year long.

Almost 10 percent of homes have one or more leaks that waste 90 gallons or more per day. The most common leak, says Hart selle Utilities Customer Service Manager Tim Mitchell, is from a running toilet. This, along with other common leaks, such as dripping faucets and other leaking valves, are relatively easy to fix.

How do you know if you have a water leak? Mitchell encourages Hart selle Utilities customers to pay attention to line-by-line charges on your utility bill.

"Don't just look at the total for all your utilities," says Hart selle Utilities General Manager Bob Sittason. "During March and April, when your overall utility bill should drop down, a water leak may not be obvious. Then you get to May and June, and your bill goes way up."

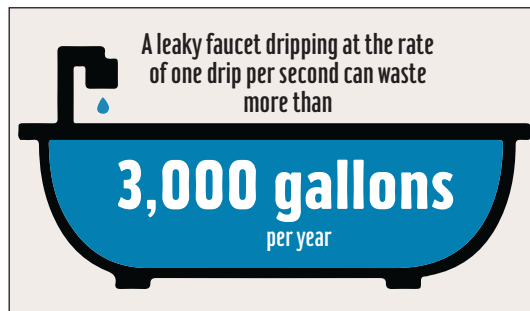
According to the EPA, a family of four should use less than 12,000 gallons of water per month.

Here are some tips for finding out if you have a water leak:

Check your water meter before and after a two-hour period when you aren't using water. If the meter changes at all, you have a leak.

Identify a leaking toilet by placing a drop of food coloring in the tank. Your toilet leaks if the color shows up in the bowl after 10 minutes. (Be sure to flush immediately after the test to avoid staining your tank.)

Check your faucets and pipe fittings outside. Any water on the



outside of a pipe indicates a leak.

Here are the most common areas to check for leaks in your home:

Toilet Leaks

Old or worn-out toilet flappers can cause leaks. The flapper is the inexpensive rubber valve seal that controls the volume of water released into your toilet bowl, and it can build up minerals and decay over time. If you hear the water running continuously in your toilet, or if it seems to

take too long to fill, most likely you need to replace the flapper. But the good news is that replacing a worn-out flapper is relatively easy.

Leaky Faucets

A faucet that drips once per second can waste more than 3,000 gallons per year, giving leaky faucets the dubious second-place award for wasting water. The EPA website epa.gov/watersense/fix-leak-week has tutorials for fixing a wide variety of faucets.

Showerheads

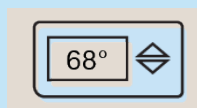
Leaking showerheads can also waste a lot of water: 10 drips a minute wastes enough water in a year to wash 60 dishwasher loads. You can sometimes fix a leaky showerhead by tightening the connection between the showerhead and the water pipe and then using pipe tape to secure it. It's also a good idea to periodically check the "o" rings in your showerheads.

Outdoor Leaks

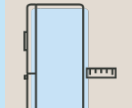
Most of the time, Sittason points out, no one uses outdoor faucets in February and March, so outdoor leaks can be easy to miss this time of year. Frozen outdoor pipes can burst. Homeowners should check in-ground irrigation systems every spring for damage. An irrigation system with a tiny leak only 1/32nd of an inch in diameter can waste about 6,300 gallons of water per month.

Easy Weekend Updates to Make Your Home Energy Efficient - And Save Money

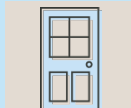
Advice from our partners at TVA. For more tips to save money on your utility bill, visit energyright.com.



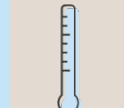
Reset your thermostat. Set it to 78F in the summer and 68F in the winter.



Pull the fridge away from the wall to help air properly circulate.



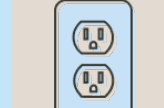
Weatherstrip leaky doors and windows.



Adjust the water heater. Lower your water heater temperature to 120F.



Reset your fridge temperature to 35-38F & the freezer to 0-5F.



Install a smart power strip. When a device is in standby mode, power turns off.

HU Recognizes Employees for Years of Service



Steve Terry



Josh Owens



Mark Campbell

These are our employees who achieved five-year anniversaries during 2021. Thank you for your dedication.

40 years of service: Steve Terry, Water System Controller.

20 years of service: Josh Owens, Electric Lineman.



Stephen Johnson



Chad Henry



Cody Clemons

15 years of Service: Mark Campbell, WWTP Lead Operator; Stephen Johnson, Line Cleaning Technician; Chad Henry, Electric Foreman.

10 years of service: Cody Clemons, Field Operations Foreman- Water; Michael Halbrooks, Field Operations Foreman- Gas.



Michael Halbrooks



Daxton Maze



Chris Bumbarger

Five years of service: Daxton Maze, Engineering Services Manager; Chris Bumbarger, Mechanic.

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Bittersweet Goodbyes and Congratulations



Jonathan Hampton

Hartselle Utilities Electric Superintendent Jonathan Hampton retired after 32 years of service in December. Hampton joined HU as an operator in the Water Department in 1989. "At the time, it sounded like a good opportunity," Hampton says, "and it was. Hartselle Utilities has been great to me."

Hampton moved into the Electric Department as an Apprentice Lineman, Lineman and Foreman. He was named Electric Superintendent in 2007.

"The last job was the best," Hampton jokes, but says he probably enjoyed the six or seven years he spent as a Lineman the most.

Hampton's favorite thing about working for HU was the employees. "Working with all the guys there, and just being able to work in my hometown," he says. "I grew up in Hartselle. I enjoyed it because I knew a lot of people and I tried to please as many as I could."

Hampton plans to enjoy his retirement. "I have a lake house and have several side projects there, and I have three grandkids in Montgomery that I'm looking forward to enjoying them a lot more."

Former Electric Foreman Bryan Hall has been named the new Superintendent, and Austin Peinhardt has been promoted from Lineman to Foreman. We congratulate Bryan and Austin, and wish Jonathan the best of luck in your retirement!

PHOTOS BY RACHEL HOWARD, © 2021 RAW IMAGES



Bryan Hall



Austin Peinhardt

Have you signed up
for E-Bill?

hartselleutilities.org/e-bill



- Less paper to handle
- Get your statement faster
- Access your utility bill from anywhere

To sign up for E-Bill, go to our website at hartselleutilities.org/e-bill. From there, you will be prompted to register online. Enter your account name and account number - including dashes - exactly as they appear on your bill. If you have questions about E-Bill, call HU Customer Service at (256) 773-3340.

Hartselle Recycling Calendar

Here are the next four months of Hartselle's Recycling Calendar. If you have a question about sanitation pickup, containers, or need to know your Recycling Pickup Zone, visit hartselle.org or call Public Works at (256) 773-2643.

February '22						
Sun	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28					

March '22						
Sun	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

April '22						
Sun	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

May '22						
Sun	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

Zone 1-A Zone 1-B	Zone 2-A Zone 2-B	Zone 3-A Zone 3-B	Zone 4-A Zone 4-B
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For the full Recycling Pickup Calendar and Zone Map,
visit hartselle.org

Have a non-emergency question or a question about your bill? Email us at inquiries@hartselleutilities.org.

We try to respond to billing and general questions within 24 hours; service issues that need investigation may take up to 48 hours.

To report a gas leak, sewer backup or power outage, call our office. Our phones are answered 24 hours a day, seven days a week. During business hours (M-F, 7:30 am - 4:30 pm), call (256) 773-3340. After hours, call (256) 773-2533 or (256) 773-2588.



256-773-2533 or 256-773-2588
or 911



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1010 Sparkman St NW
Hartselle, AL 35640
256-773-3340
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From the Hartselle Fire Department:



Home fires occur more in winter than in any other season. As you stay cozy and warm this winter, be fire smart!