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STATE OF MARYLAND



CONTACT: Tori Leonard
410-767-8054
443-680-1619 (c)
tori.leonard@maryland.gov
 

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

For Immediate Release

Maryland Public Service Commission Supports EPA's "Fix-a-Leak Week," March 14-20, 2016

(BALTIMORE, MD-March 15, 2016) – Because household leaks can waste more than a trillion gallons of water nationwide every year, the Maryland Public Service Commission (PSC) is promoting "Fix-a-Leak Week," March 14-20, 2016. Fix-a-Leak Week is sponsored by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Water Sense® program as an annual reminder to Americans to check household plumbing fixtures and irrigation systems for leaks and other inefficiencies.

"We encourage homeowners to take advantage of the information and resources available through the EPA's awareness campaign to conserve water, save money on their utility bills and protect the environment," said Kevin Hughes, Chairman of the PSC.

The WaterSense® program has developed ways to identify and repair dripping faucets, running toilets and leaky showerheads. In most cases, these fixes are easy enough for homeowners to fix themselves. The EPA's website, www3.epa.gov/watersense, features numerous ways to find and fix leaks.

A few water-saving tips:

- Turn off the tap while shaving or brushing teeth
- Showers use less water than baths (but keep them short)
- Run washers and dishwashers only when they are fully loaded (and scrape plates instead of rinsing before loading into the dishwasher)
- Keep a pitcher of drinking water in the refrigerator instead of letting the faucet run until the water is cool
- Thaw food in the refrigerator overnight rather than using a running tap of hot water

WILLIAM DONALD SCHAEFER TOWER 6 ST. PAUL STREET BALTIMORE, MARYLAND 21202-6806

410-767-8000 Toll Free: 1-800-492-0474 FAX: 410-333-6495

MDRS: 1-800-735-2258 (TTY/Voice) Website: www.psc.state.md.us

- Visit https://www3.epa.gov/watersense/product_search.html to find retailers that carry products such as faucets, toilets, showerheads and irrigation controllers bearing the WaterSense® label . WaterSense®-labeled products are backed by independent, third-party testing and certification, and meet EPA's specifications for water efficiency and performance.

About the Public Service Commission:

The Maryland Public Service Commission regulates electric and gas utilities, telephone companies (land lines), certain water and sewer companies, passenger motor vehicle carriers for hire (sedans, limousines, buses and Transportation Network Companies), taxicab companies (in Baltimore City and County, Cumberland and Hagerstown) and bay pilot rates.

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