North Texas Municipal Water District

For Immediate Release

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NTMWD urges consumers to find and fix leaks

Water District asks that all consumers find and fix leaks inside and outside their homes and businesses to help conserve water supplies

(Wylie, Texas-March 14, 2014) The North Texas Municipal Water District (NTMWD) is joining forces with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and NTMWD’s Member Cities and Customers to take part in the national “Fix a Leak” Week, urging residents to find and fix water leaks inside and outside their homes and businesses. The annual March campaign is designed to continue water conservation efforts by repairing leaks. In North Texas, Fix a Leak Week will be held March 17-23, 2014. This year’s Fix a Leak Week encourages consumers to help put a stop to the more than 1 trillion gallons of water wasted from household leaks each year.

“Leaks can account for more than 10,000 gallons of water in an average home every year—the amount of water it takes to wash 270 loads of laundry,” said Denise Hickey, Public Relations Coordinator for NTMWD. “As an EPA WaterSense promotional partner, NTMWD encourages our area consumers to find and fix leaks to save water in our communities.”

The most common water leaks found inside the home are the toilets and faucets. Outside the home, the most common water leaks are found in the irrigation systems and water spigots. Many water leaks are easy to detect and repair.

NTMWD is asking consumers to:

- Check for leaks and have them repaired.
- Twist and tighten connections.
- Repair or replace the fixture if necessary.

Simple tips on checking for water leaks:

- Check your water meter before and after a two-hour period when no water is being used. If the meter changes at all, you probably have a leak.
- Identify toilet leaks by placing a drop of food coloring in the toilet tank. If any color shows up in the bowl after 15 minutes, you have a leak. (Be sure to flush immediately after the experiment to avoid staining the tank.)
- Check your toilet flapper periodically to make sure it is functioning properly.
- To check for faucet leaks, examine gaskets and pipe fittings for any water on the outside of the pipe.
- For a leaky garden hose, replace the nylon or rubber washer and ensure a tight connection to the spigot.
- Repair broken or missing sprinkler heads, a main cause of wasteful water runoff.
- If you are considering replacing plumbing fixtures, look for the WaterSense label to increase your home’s water efficiency.
- Contact a licensed irrigation professional to inspect your landscape sprinkler system for leaks and broken pipes. Also ask the contractor to set the system for maximum efficiency and to comply with current watering restrictions.

Visit [www.epa.gov/watersense](http://www.epa.gov/watersense) to find WaterSense labeled products or an irrigation auditor in your area. For more water conservation tips and information, visit [www.wateriq.org](http://www.wateriq.org).

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