



CITY OF DURHAM
Department of Water Management
101 CITY HALL PLAZA
DURHAM, NC 27701

News Release

For Immediate Release: March 14, 2017

News Media Contact:

Kirk Butts
Senior Public Affairs Specialist
(919) 560-4381 x35255
(260) 417-0788 (cell)
Kirk.Butts@DurhamNC.gov
<http://Facebook.com/DurhamSavesWater>
<http://Twitter.com/DurhamWater>

Durham Water Management Promotes EPA's "Fix a Leak Week"

City Department Hosts Water Efficiency Clinics at Local Home Improvement Stores

DURHAM, N.C. — More than one trillion gallons of water are wasted via leaks in American households each year. That's equal to the annual total household water use of more than 11 million homes. Sponsored by the EPA's WaterSense® program, Fix a Leak Week is March 20-26, 2017, and Water Management is promoting finding and fixing residential leaks in Durham.

"Leaks can waste more than 10,000 gallons of water in an average home every year—the amount of water it takes to wash nearly 300 loads of laundry," explained James Lim, Water Efficiency and Conservation Program Manager with the City's Department of Water Management. "As a WaterSense partner, we are encouraging consumers to find and fix leaks to save water here in Durham."

In partnership with local home improvement stores, Water Management is sponsoring a series of water efficiency and leak detection clinics during the month of March. Just by stopping by, customers will receive DIY advice from experts on how to detect and repair minor leaks, as well as tips on making water efficient behavior an everyday practice. Water Management staff will also have information about the department's toilet rebate program for Durham homeowners.

The Water Efficiency Clinics will be held between 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. this month at the following locations:

- March 18 – Lowe's Home Improvement (4402 Fayetteville Road)
- March 19 – Lowe's Home Improvement (117 William Penn Plaza)

To save water, energy, and also lower utility bills, customers should *check, twist, and replace*:

- **Check for leaks.** Look for dripping faucets, showerheads, sprinklers, and other fixtures at home. Check for toilets with silent leaks by putting a few drops of food coloring into the tank. Wait 10 minutes, and see if color appears in the bowl before you flush. Don't forget to check irrigation systems and spigots, too.
- **Twist and tighten hose and pipe connections.** Twist on a WaterSense-labeled faucet aerator and you'll save water and still have adequate pressure for brushing teeth and washing hands.
- **Replace the fixture if necessary.** WaterSense-labeled models are independently certified to use 20 percent less water and perform as well as or better than standard models.

WaterSense-labeled showerheads, aerators, and other helpful items are included in the department's Water Efficiency Kits, available to customers at Durham City Hall for just \$3.

In many cases, replacement parts pay for themselves quickly and can be installed by handy do-it-yourselfers or local plumbing professionals. Irrigation professionals certified through a WaterSense-labeled program can also check your systems for leaks. Visit www.epa.gov/watersense to find WaterSense-labeled products or an auditor in your area. For more information about the clinics or additional conservation tips, Durham residents should call (919) 560-4381, e-mail savewater@durhamnc.gov or visit www.DurhamSavesWater.org. Customers are also encouraged to watch handy how-to videos from Water Management conservation staff at <https://www.youtube.com/user/DurhamSavesWaterNow>.

About the Department of Water Management

The Department of Water Management is responsible for the operation and maintenance of Durham's water supply, water treatment and water reclamation (wastewater treatment) facilities, the collection and distribution systems (including meter reading), and customer billing services. The department has a wide variety of support divisions and programs to maintain the existing infrastructure that provide these integral services, and strives to be a responsible steward of the City's physical assets. For information, visit <http://durhamnc.gov/944/>, like [Durham Saves Water](https://www.facebook.com/DurhamSavesWater) on Facebook, and follow [@DurhamWater](https://twitter.com/DurhamWater) on Twitter.

###