

Faucets:

- Take a watch or clock with a second hand and time how often your faucet drips. A leaky faucet that drips at the rate of one drip per second can waste more than 3,000 gallons in a year!
- There are parts that hold your faucet together called washers and gaskets—they can wear down and cause drips. If someone in your house is handy, these parts usually can be replaced easily.
- There's also a little screen device called an "aerator" that can be screwed onto the tip of your faucet—it adds air into the water stream so you can use less water to wash your hands or brush your teeth without noticing a difference in water flow. Ask your parents to look for the WaterSense label when buying an aerator or replacing a faucet—that means the product will work well and save water.



Showers:

- Showerheads—the place where water comes out in streams at the top of your shower—can also get old and leak, even when the water is not on. A showerhead that drops just 10 drips in a minute wastes more than 500 gallons per year. That's enough water, if you saved it all up, to wash 60 loads of dishes in your dishwasher!
- Most leaky showerheads can be fixed by making sure they're screwed in tight. Having someone handy wrap the showerhead in "pipe tape," a special tape available at hardware stores, and using a wrench to tighten it will help.

Toilets:

- It's one of the oldest prank phone calls—"Is your toilet running? Then you'd better catch it!" But a running toilet is no joke. If you can hear the water in your toilet making noise, even when no one flushed recently, you have a running toilet that could be wasting 200 gallons of water or more every day! Sometimes you just need to jiggle the handle to fix it, but sometimes a part needs to be replaced.
- Many toilets leaks are caused because the "flapper" is decayed or broken. The flapper is a rubber piece that opens up to let the water flow from the tank into the bowl when you pull down on the toilet handle. If someone in your house is handy, they can easily replace this inexpensive part of your toilet.
- If the problem is not just an old flapper and your family has to replace a leaky toilet, tell your parents to look for one with the WaterSense label to save both water and money on your family's water and sewer bill.



Outdoors:

- Check your garden hose for leaks where it connects to the side of the house. If it leaks when the hose is turned on, make sure the hose is screwed in tight. If that doesn't work, someone handy may need to replace the nylon or rubber hose washer or wrap the "spigot," which is the metal faucet where the end of the hose attaches to the wall, in pipe tape.
- If your family has a sprinkler system that waters your lawn, remind your parents to check the system each spring before turning it on to make sure the sprinklers were not broken during the winter or have sprung any leaks.

For more information, visit www.epa.gov/watersense