

The Full Circle

Current news and helpful tips from Carmel Utilities



Simple Steps to Big Savings, EPA Fix a Leak Week March 18-24, 2013

Drip. Drip. Drip. The average American household wastes more than 10,000 gallons each year from easy-to-fix water leaks—enough water to wash nearly 10 months' worth of laundry.

Be proactive and start saving today with three simple steps: Check. Twist. Replace.

1. Check

First, check your home for leaks. Silent toilet leaks are a common water-wasting culprit. You can check for toilet leaks by adding a few drops of food coloring to the toilet tank and waiting 30 minutes before flushing. If any color appears in the bowl during that time, your toilet has a leak. Visit www.epa.gov/watersense/fixaleak for do-it-yourself repair tips or contact a plumbing professional.

2. Twist

Apply pipe tape to be sure plumbing fixture connections are sealed tight and give leaking faucets and showerheads a firm twist with a wrench. If you can't stop those drops yourself, contact your plumbing professional. For additional savings, twist a WaterSense labeled aerator onto each bathroom faucet to save water without noticing a difference in flow.

3. Replace

If you just can't nip that drip, it may be time to replace the fixture. Look for WaterSense labeled models, which use at least 20 percent less water and are independently certified to perform as well or better than standard plumbing fixtures.

For more information and tips about how to save water during Fix a Leak Week, visit www.epa.gov/watersense/fixaleak.

Successful Dog Rescue

On the Saturday after Thanksgiving the Carmel Police and Fire Departments were called to the scene where a dog had found its way into a storm sewer. The dog had managed to get far into the sewer system and it became trapped near a storm inlet manhole. The Police and Fire Departments were not able to make the confined space entry and did not have the equipment needed to make the rescue. They then called upon Carmel Utilities Sewer Department for help.



Carmel Utilities Responded

Carmel Utilities staff Micah Beck, Joe Faucett and Blaine Mallaber responded with a service truck and confined space equipment. The equipment was set up and Joe Faucett was outfitted into a harness system and lowered into the manhole. Once down in the manhole Joe discovered that the dog was trapped in a device that covered the end of the pipe and would not allow the dog to get out. Joe had to use several different pieces of equipment to cut away the device that was preventing access. In the last steps Joe had to manually cut away with a handsaw while holding back the dog with one arm so it wouldn't get cut as the dog was fighting to get out. Joe did all of this while suspended in a harness hanging 20 feet below

the surface with 5 feet of storm sewer water beneath him!

Joe was finally able to reach the dog and a harness was placed around both of them and they were pulled to safety by Blaine, Micah and the Fire Department.

The dog is doing well and the owners said it was the best Christmas gift anyone could have ever given their family.

Prepare Your Home For Winter Weather

Winter weather is here and the City of Carmel Utilities would like to remind you to take precautions to protect the plumbing in your home from freezing during extremely cold temperatures.

- If you have pipes along an outside wall allow a small trickle of water to run at night to keep the pipes from freezing. The cost of the extra water is low compared to a frozen pipe.
- Open cabinet doors to expose pipes along outside walls to warmer room temperatures.
- Know where your main water shut-off valve is. If a pipe freezes or breaks, shut the water off immediately.
- Keep your garage door closed whenever possible during cold spells.
- Insulate both hot and cold water pipes in an area that is likely to freeze since hot water pipes have a tendency to freeze first.



If you are traveling during periods of cold weather, you may want to take the following precautions in addition to the ones above.

- If you live in a single family home consider turning off the water to your house at the meter. In Carmel usually the meter is located in a pit by the front sidewalk.
- Make arrangements with a friend or neighbor to periodically check on your house to make sure the heat is working.
- Never turn off your heat or turn the thermostat below 60 degrees.
- Turn down the temperature on your hot water heater to save energy but do not turn the unit off.



If your pipes do freeze it is quite possible that your water meter is frozen. Please call Carmel Utilities Customer Service Department at 317-571-2442 and we will send someone to unfreeze your water meter for you.

Carmel High School Green Shower Power

As the community becomes more environmentally aware, people begin to seek ways they can help. After some research, two Carmel High School students, Tiffany Wang and Alice Wang, proposed the idea of low flow shower heads to the school administrators. The school agreed to install new low-flow shower heads with push buttons as the on/off switches. Each push would turn on the shower for one minute to insure that showers turn off when not in use. To help cut the cost of the renovation, Alice and Tiffany

applied for and received a \$750 grant provided by the award winning Carmel Green Teen Microgrant program.

Carmel High School installed the new showers and they are now saving money and helping the environment. The previous shower heads used 3 gallons per minute (gpm), while the new low-flow shower head uses only 2.5 gpm. That means that the swim team alone will save 6,860 gallons of water a week. When you expand

the use to the long showers taken by the members or the Carmel Swim Club, physical education students, and recreational swimmers, the savings really add up. With the new shower heads, the school is using less water and creating less waste and pollution.

Installing low-flow shower heads is a quick and easy way to save water and money in your own home. To find reliable information about water-efficient shower heads visit the EPA's WaterSense site at



www.epa.gov/watersense/products/showerheads

Carmel Utilities is a proud sponsor of the Carmel Green Teens Micro Grant Program. To find out more about this youth grant-making organization visit www.carmelgreenteen.org.