

Finding and fixing leaks can help save precious water

You may not know it, but there could be a thief at work in your home. No, this burglar isn't stealing your jewelry, electronics, or other valuable; instead, it may be robbing you of something even more precious—your water and money.

Across the country, household leaks account for more than 10,000 gallons of water wasted annually, and 10 percent of homes have leaks that waste 90 gallons or more daily. Common culprits include worn toilet flappers, dripping faucets, and leaking valves. Faulty or damaged landscape irrigation systems and swimming pool automatic fill valves also can waste water and contribute to high water bills.

Tracking down and fixing leaks is especially important in Southern Nevada, where 90 percent of the community's water supply comes from one source—the Colorado River at Lake Mead. Along with following mandatory seasonal watering restrictions and avoiding water waste, fixing household leaks can go a long way toward conserving water in our desert community.

To help make the job easier, the Southern Nevada Water Authority (SNWA) offers money, and water-saving rebate offers for smart leak detectors that send information to an app on your smart device. The post-purchase rebate pays customers who install the technology up to half of the purchase price, or \$200, whichever is less. Some devices require tapping into the existing plumbing system and may require a licensed plumber for the installation, while others simply attach to your water meter.

Regularly checking your irrigation system for leaks and cracked or broken parts will not only save water, but also reduce your monthly water bills. This simple step also can help you avoid costly water-waste fees; irrigation water allowed to flow off your property and down the street is considered water waste and could be subject to fines ranging from \$80 up to more than \$5,000 for repeated violations.

The SNWA also offers free indoor water audit kits so you can test your fixtures. To learn what you can do to prevent and repair leaks in your home, visit snwa.com.

Celebrate Día de Muertos at the Springs Preserve

Celebrate the colorful, centuries-old traditions of Day of the Dead as the Springs Preserve presents the family-friendly Día de Muertos Festival nightly, Nov. 4-6, from 5-9 p.m.

Día de Muertos blends rich, time-honored customs with activities such as live entertainment, mariachis and dance performances, an array of altars honoring relatives and loved ones, sugar skull decorating, traditional food, art vendors and much more.

Admission is \$12 for adults, \$8 for kids ages 3-17, and free for ages 2 and under. Tickets are available for purchase only at springspreserve.org. Please note: All tickets are date-specific and must be purchased in advance; tickets will not be sold at the gate. A limited number of tickets are available for each date.