

Pipelines

WINTER 2024



How to Become a Water Leak Detective

Water is a precious resource, and yet, household leaks often go unnoticed, leading to wasted water and potential damage. Detecting these leaks early can save resources and prevent costly repairs. Here's a guide on how to identify and address common household water leaks.

1. Check Your Water Bill: An unexpectedly high water bill could indicate a hidden leak. Compare your current bill with previous ones. A significant increase, especially if your water usage habits haven't changed, may point to an issue.

2. Inspect Faucets and Fixtures: Leaking faucets are common culprits. Check for visible drips or puddles around faucets and handles. Tightening connections or replacing worn-out parts, such as washers, can often resolve minor leaks.

3. Examine Toilet Tanks: Toilets are notorious for silent leaks. Add a few drops of food coloring to the toilet tank and wait for about 15 minutes without flushing. If color appears in the bowl, there's a leak. Usually, a worn-out flapper or a faulty valve seal is the culprit.

4. Look for Dampness and Mold: Persistent dampness or mold in walls, ceilings, or floors may indicate hidden plumbing leaks. Be attentive to

musty odors, as these can also be signs of concealed water damage.

5. Inspect Appliances: Regularly check under sinks, behind appliances like dishwashers and washing machines, and around water heaters for any signs of leaks. Small puddles, discoloration, or rust could indicate a problem.

6. Outdoor Inspection: Don't forget to inspect outdoor areas. Check hose bibs, irrigation systems, and other outdoor plumbing fixtures for leaks. A soggy lawn or unexplained puddles could signal an underground leak.

7. Listen for Unusual Sounds: Sometimes, leaks are audible. Listen for hissing or dripping sounds, especially in quiet areas of your home. These can lead you to leaks hidden behind walls or under flooring.

8. Monitor Your Water Meter: If you have access to view your water meter, a simple and effective method to detect leaks is by regularly monitoring your water meter. Turn off all water-using appliances and faucets, then check the meter. If it continues to move, there might be a hidden leak. If you do not have access to view your water meter, check out number nine on this list.

9. Utilize Leak Detection Applications: Consider

signing up for our WaterSmart app. This app can provide you with near-real time insight into your water usage and alert you to unusual patterns, helping you catch leaks early. It also has videos to help guide you through detecting leaks. Check out: www.greencountyoh.watersmart.com

10. Schedule Professional Inspections: If you're unable to identify a leak or suspect a more significant issue, it's wise to call in a professional plumber. They have the expertise and tools to detect and address leaks efficiently.

Detecting and addressing household water leaks is not only about conserving water but also about protecting your home from potential damage. By staying vigilant and conducting routine checks, you can catch leaks early, saving both water and money. Adopting these practices contributes to a water-wise lifestyle and ensures the sustainability of this precious resource. Remember, a small effort today can lead to significant savings and a more sustainable future.



Preventing Sewage Backups with FOG Awareness

Winter brings its own set of challenges, and for homeowners, one concern that often goes overlooked is the potential for sewage backups. Freezing temperatures and increased holiday cooking can lead to blockages in sewer lines, making it crucial to focus on prevention, particularly when it comes to FOG – Fats, Oils, and Grease.

Understanding the Winter Risk: As temperatures drop, FOG has a tendency to solidify in pipes, creating a sticky barrier that can catch other debris and contribute to blockages. When this occurs in sewer lines, it can lead to backups, causing inconvenience, potential damage, and costly repairs.

FOG Management Tips:

Proper Disposal: Avoid pouring cooking oils, grease, and fat down the drain. Instead, collect them in a sealable container and dispose of them in the trash. This simple practice can significantly reduce the risk of blockages.

Cold Water Rinse: After cooking, run cold water down the drain for a few minutes. Cold water helps solidify any residual FOG, allowing it to be carried

further along the sewer system without adhering to the pipes.

Use Sink Strainers: Install sink strainers to catch food scraps and other solids before they enter the drain. This not only prevents blockages but also aids in reducing the overall load on the sewer system.

Educate Household Members: Ensure everyone in your household is aware of the importance of proper FOG disposal. Simple changes in behavior, such as scraping plates before washing, can make a significant difference.

Routine Maintenance: Schedule periodic inspections and maintenance for your sewer lines, especially before the winter season. Professional inspections can identify potential issues early, allowing for timely intervention.

Preventing sewage backups in winter is not only about safeguarding your home but also about being a responsible member of the community. By adopting FOG management practices and winter-specific precautions, you contribute to the smooth functioning of the sewer system, ensuring a hassle-free season for everyone.

Stay Green After the Holidays!

As the holiday season comes to a close, our commitment to sustainability continues! We're thrilled to announce that Environmental Services is extending a warm invitation to recycle your Christmas trees and holiday lights.

Starting January 2nd, bring your Christmas trees to our recycling center for an eco-friendly farewell.

To ensure smooth recycling, please remember to undress your trees—lights and ornaments need to bid adieu before the recycling journey begins.

But that's not the only way to keep the holiday spirit alive in a sustainable manner! We're also accepting holiday lights for recycling until

February 1st. Whether they've dazzled one too many seasons or you're upgrading to LED brilliance, let's give those lights a green send-off.

By choosing to recycle your Christmas trees and lights, you're not only clearing space in your home but also contributing to a healthier planet.

Together, let's make post-holiday cleanup a breeze and embrace a greener, more sustainable New Year.

Drop off location:
2145 Greene Way Blvd
Xenia, Ohio 45385



GCSED Spotlight: Project Management

In the intricate web of ensuring seamless water and sewer operations, our Project Management team stands as a dedicated force, orchestrating a symphony of tasks crucial to the vitality of our community. Their duties are diverse, so let's take a closer look at all the amazing things this incredible team does!

One of the team's pivotal responsibilities is the issuance of permits for new sewer, water, fire lines, and irrigation. These permits are the green light for crucial infrastructural developments, ensuring compliance with regulations and standards.

Often serving as a go-between for Engineers and Contractors, our project management team is great at fostering effective communication, ironing out discrepancies, and ensuring that the vision outlined in construction plans translates seamlessly into on-site reality. Before the first brick is laid, our team meticulously consults construction plans and seeks EPA approval. Preconstruction meetings with Contractors, Engineers, Builders, and Inspectors set the stage for collaborative success, ensuring everyone is on the same page for a project's smooth execution.

Our Project Management team doesn't just keep up with the times; they lead the charge. By updating our system with new water and sewer lines, they empower our inspectors, customer service, and maintenance crews with real-time information, enabling them to make informed decisions in the field.

They also act as a guiding beacon as the team assists the Ohio Utilities Protection Service, homeowners, contractors, and our fieldworkers in finding and locating water and sewer lines. Their expertise ensures that projects proceed without disruptions, safeguarding the integrity of our

underground infrastructure. Instrumental in managing water distribution, our team is responsible for issuing hose bib rentals to residents for irrigation, pool fillings and hydrant meters to contractors. These processes are vital in maintaining the balance between residential needs and construction requirements, fostering a harmonious coexistence.

Backflow prevention is another crucial facet of their duties, extending their responsibility to safeguard water quality from irrigation lines, businesses, and apartment buildings. Their vigilance ensures that our community enjoys access to clean and uncontaminated water.



In the grand tapestry of our water and sewer infrastructure, the Project Management team serves as the unseen architects, crafting a foundation for sustainable growth and community well-being. Their dedication, expertise, and behind-the-scenes efforts are the keystones that make possible the seamless functioning of our systems. As we celebrate their integral role, we recognize that it's their passion and commitment that keep the lifeblood of our community flowing smoothly. Cheers to the unsung heroes of Project Management!

Greene County Environmental Services

Household Hazardous Waste



Accepted :

- Acids & Cleaners
- Aerosol Spray Cans
- Antifreeze
- < 5 Gallons of Fuel - Gasoline & Kerosene
- Herbicides & Pesticides
- Putty & Adhesives
- Stains, Varnishes & Paint Thinner
- Oil Based Paints

Not Accepted :

- Motor Oil
- Electronics
- Small Household Appliances
- Computers & Accessories
- Televisions
- Pharmaceuticals
- Ammunition
- Explosives



Household Hazardous Waste

Drop off Dates/Times:

Tuesday, January 23rd - 12:30 pm to 2:30 pm
Tuesday, February 27th - 12:30 pm to 2:30 pm
Tuesday, March 19th - 12:30 pm to 2:30 pm
Saturday, April 13th - 9:00 am to 12:00 pm
Tuesday, April 23rd - 12:30 pm to 2:30 pm

Location: 2145 Greene Way Blvd, Xenia, Ohio 45385

Ways to pay your bill

Online or to set up automatic payments:
greenecountyohio.gov/sanitary

By Phone: 855-925-1665 (24 Hr. Service)

By Mail:
Greene County Sanitary
Engineering Department
P.O. Box 340
Xenia, OH 45385-0340

Remember to update your GCSED online banking vendor address. Some banks send your payment via USPS rather than ACH transaction.

Greene County Sanitary Engineering

Administration Building
937-562-7450
Monday-Friday, 7:30 am to 4:00 pm
667 Dayton-Xenia Road
Xenia, OH 45385

After-Hours Emergencies
937-562-7450

Billing/Bill Payments
937-562-7457

greenecountyohio.gov

