



Make Fix a Leak Week **Virtually Amazing**

Inspire Kids to “**Be a Leak Detective**”

Showing children (and their families) simple ways to detect household leaks is a great way to celebrate Fix a Leak Week, whether kids are at school or at home. Looking for quick ideas that you can implement? Whether you are reaching out to schools, kids’ museums, public libraries, homeschool programs, remote learning pods, or families looking for fun education activities to do at home, consider these ideas to motivate the junior leak detectives in your community.

Idea 1: Use WaterSense Tools

- There’s no need to reinvent the wheel! WaterSense has developed a series of educational tools for teachers and students to learn more about water savings in and around their homes. Check out the [WaterSense partner website](#) [Fix a Leak Week page](#) for leak detective graphics and tools. The WaterSense public website is also a great resource for school and family activities such as the [Family Fact Sheet](#) you can use to help children find leaks in and around their home. The WaterSense website also includes a [Teachers Guide](#) and [Student Worksheet](#) that can be used for remote learning or in-person instruction; feel free to link to them from your website.
- Before you hit send on those activities, contact teachers and/or school administrators to gauge and confirm their interest in using your Fix a Leak Week materials and activities. Be prepared to show a direct tie-in to their curriculum plans (e.g., hands-on, action project or math calculations), and how the unit can be conducted virtually.
- Remember to weave the Fix a Leak “[Be a Leak Detective](#)” theme into your messaging. Incorporating the “check, twist, replace” message is recommended, since it is an easy mantra to remember—**check** for silent toilet leaks using a dye test, **twist** pipe and fixture connections to stop drips, and **replace** worn out toilet flappers if you find a leak using the dye test.

**Tip: Expand your reach—
look for local homeschool
programs or remote learning
pods in your community!**

Idea 2: Bring the Lessons Home

- If you are not able to demonstrate leak detection in person, bringing experiments to students’ computers and tablets with an online or video tutorial is the next best thing. If your audience is composed mostly of young children, consider ways to keep them engaged through animation, use of mascots, other children featured in the video, and keep the lessons or experiments age- and skill-level-appropriate. You can post the [Fix a Leak Week video with Flo](#) for younger children or promote the “[bath hack](#)” [videos](#) for older kids or do-it-yourselfers.
- If you have the budget or materials, compile activity kits (e.g., leak detection, faucet measuring, art supplies, science experiment packets) that correspond with the video demonstrations, and drop them off with schools, or host a contactless pickup date for families with kids interested in becoming leak detectives. Providing students with the materials needed to perform experiments, such as dye tablets or faucet flow bags, will remove barriers to participation.
- Post activity sheets, instructions, videos, and supply lists for children taking part from home. Don’t forget to offer material and supply substitutions (i.e., food coloring instead of dye tabs), if you are not distributing materials.

Idea 3: Science Clubs, Science Shows, and Other Virtual Options

- Zoom through Fix a Leak Week with leak detection activities for a virtual science club. Offer daily experiments, demonstrations, guest speakers, and fun tie-ins to water savings in and outside the home. Can’t commit to Fix a Leak

Week? Try offering classes over the course of the school year that kids can join at their leisure or post your virtual science club on your website for viewing anytime.

- Encourage participation through friendly competition, such as a photo or art contest for students to show leak detection or household water savings or consider prizes such as passes to local nature or science centers.
- Need a fun and engaging way to interact with students virtually? Consider hosting a Water Conservation or Leak Detection Science show on YouTube, Zoom, or Facebook Live! Advertise your event on social media and ask teachers to share the event details with their students.
- Before your live event, post the list of supplies that participants will need and any links to resources that they will need to access.
- If you have a mascot, get them in on the fun too! If you don't have a mascot, consider reserving Flo, the WaterSense "spokesgallon" to appear during your virtual event. She'll travel to you and is happy to appear and encourage children to track down household leaks.
- Before committing to a Zoom Science Club, ensure the children or students invited will have access to a computer (or device) with internet access.



Learn From Other Partners

Need more inspiration? WaterSense partners have shared successful leak detection activities, teaching children and adults how to find and fix school and household leaks. Following are a few ideas on how partners successfully engaged kids in leak detective and water conservation activities:

- When the pandemic hit, the **Northwestern (Ohio) Water and Sewer District** distributed faucet flow measuring bags to teachers, enabling them to conduct and record faucet flow measurements at home on Zoom and show their students this science experiment.
- **Athens-Clarke County (Georgia) Water Conservation Office** distributed individual toy frogs of their mascot, Little Lily, so each student would have their own Little Lily to keep. Each month during the 2020-21 academic year, a utility employee read a water-related "Froggie Tale" on a YouTube video.
- **City of Durham (North Carolina) Water Management** partnered with a local stormwater group and the EPA Region to host a rotating science club meeting on Zoom. Participation was voluntary and limited to one school during the pilot phase, but they planned to expand to more schools in the future.
- **The City of Charlottesville (Virginia)** debuted new water conservation activity sheets at the start of a school break, giving families tools to keep children occupied and learn about water savings while on vacation.

