

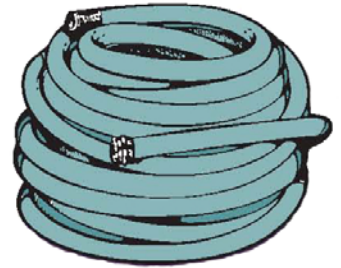
Fix That Leaky Hose!

City of Olympia, Public Works

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Now is a great time to check your pipes, hoses, faucets, and sprinklers for leaks.

Even small drips are big water wasters. A pinhole-sized leak can waste as much as 70 gallons of water in one day. That's over 25,000 gallons in a year! A little detective work can mean a lot of water savings. You'll also save money with Olympia's "use less-pay less" water rate structure.



Check for Leaks: Put a shutoff nozzle on the end of the hose. Turn the water on with the nozzle in the "off" position. Any leaks will be apparent.



Common Places to Find Leaks Include:

- The connection between a garden hose and spigot.
- Two hoses.
- A hose and a sprinkler or nozzle.

If you notice a leak in any of these connections, try hand tightening the fittings. Loose connections are a common cause of leaks.

Investigate Those Washers: If hand tightening doesn't solve the problem, check to see if the washer in your hose is cracked, broken, or missing. Even if the washer appears intact, it may still need to be replaced. That's because rubber washers tend to flatten and harden with age.



Remove the washer, and check to see if it is supple. If you have any doubts, replace it. Washers are inexpensive and available at any hardware store.

Where the Rubber Meets the Fitting: If the washer is in good working order, check to see if the leak is coming from the connection between the rubber of the hose and the fitting on the end of the hose.



If there is a leak between the rubber of the hose and the fitting on the end of the hose, or in the fitting itself, you could buy a new hose. Better yet, you can repair it!

Replacing the fitting is easy and costs a lot less than buying a new hose. You'll also prevent the hose from ending up in the landfill.

It's Easy: The only tools you will need are a screwdriver or pliers and a knife. Cut off the end of the hose. Put the clamp on, insert the new fitting, and tighten the clamp.



If there is a leak in the garden hose itself, you can repair that as well. Cut the hose at the leak. Simply insert the repair coupler into each end of the cut hose, tighten the clamps, and you've got one hose again!

Questions? Call the City of Olympia's Water Conservation Program at (360) 753-8570.



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