

## Tips for 2005 Beat the Peak

### **Not So Extreme Makeover**

I am sure everyone has seen all the television shows about extreme home makeovers. Well this summer, Pete and his crew are going to show you how you can economically give your house a “not so extreme makeover,” just by following a few simple conservation tips to Beat the Peak.

1. Lower your water bill by fixing leaky faucets. Use a few simple tools, a few inexpensive parts, a little bit of effort and you can save up to 50 gallons a day!
2. Leaking toilets are another big water waster. Toilets use about 40% of all the water entering a standard Tucson home. Having the flapper valve or float set too high can cause water to go down the drain. To check for leaks, place a few drops of food coloring in the tank. Wait 30 minutes to see if the color shows up in the bowl. If it does, you may need to replace a bad flapper. By replacing a bad flapper, you can save up to 100 gallons of water a day.
3. Check your irrigation system for leaks also, and don't forget to check the timer to see if you are watering too long. More than 60% of water leaks occur outside, so make sure your irrigation system is working properly and broken or missing emitters are replaced.
4. Begin to water harvest. Water harvesting is capturing and storing rainfall to irrigate plants and can be as simple as digging a tree well around a tree so that a catchment collects rainwater.

With a little work, you too can save water! It's easy! Just give yourself a “not so extreme makeover” and Beat the Peak this summer. For more information about summer savings tips for your home “not so extreme makeover,” visit Tucson Water's web site at [www.cityoftucson.org/water](http://www.cityoftucson.org/water) or call 791-4331 to request conservation brochures.