

# water rings

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## Checking for Leaks This Spring

Just as we change the batteries in our smoke detectors and move our clocks ahead, we should also get in the habit of checking for leaks every spring.

Check hose bibs, garden hoses, underground sprinkler systems, and all water pipes that were exposed to the elements - even when we've had a mild winter, as we have this year.

Begin checking for leaks by visually inspecting all exposed pipes and fixtures for dampness. If you have a soft, wet spot on your lawn during a dry period or hear the sound of running water, you may have a leak in the service line to your house. To confirm if the water might be coming from your service line, close the main shut-off valve inside your house. If the sound of running water continues, the outside service line could be leaking.

Check your irrigation system when it's on. Look for popped sprinkler heads and other problems. The amount of water running through a faulty sprinkler head can add up quickly and they are pretty easy to fix.

If you have a pool, shut the auto leveler off for a few days and mark the water level. If the level drops significantly in a day or two, there's a good chance there's a leak in your pool's plumbing system.

Inside your home, check your water meter before bed and when you get up - before anyone runs the water. If the meter has moved, there's likely a leak somewhere in the house.

To check for leaks in your toilets, place a drop or two of food coloring in the toilet tank. If any color shows up in the bowl after 15 minutes, you have a leak. Be sure to flush immediately after the experiment to avoid staining the tank. Call our office or email us at [wizard@nwwater.com](mailto:wizard@nwwater.com) and we'll send you dye tablets in the mail.

Leaking pipes waste your money, can cause property damage and should be immediately repaired. Early detection and repair will save you money and minimize damage.

## Know What's Below. Call Before You Dig.

Keep your home and neighborhood protected and connected by knowing what's below and always calling PA One Call at 8-1-1 (or 1-800-242-1776) *before* you dig.

If you plan to disturb the earth with powered equipment, you are required by Pennsylvania law to notify the underground utility companies of your intent. PA One Call is a *free service* that notifies the nearby utility companies for you. The utilities will then come out and mark the location of the underground lines before you dig.

Why is this important? Knowing the approximate location of your buried lines before each digging project helps protect you from injury and the consequences that

can result from accidentally damaging a buried utility line. The depths of utility lines vary and there can be multiple utility lines in the same area.

Damages to underground utility lines can disrupt service to the entire neighborhood, potentially harm diggers and damage the environment.

Do you need a reminder? Send us an email at [wizard@nwwater.com](mailto:wizard@nwwater.com) and we'll send you a *FREE* PA One Call key fob! Be sure to include your full name and mailing address!

*Safe Digging Is No Accident:  
Always Call 811 Before You Dig*

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# NWWA

North Wales Water Authority

PO Box 1339  
200 West Walnut Street  
North Wales, PA 19454-0339  
215-699-4836  
[www.nwwater.com](http://www.nwwater.com)  
[wizard@nwwater.com](mailto:wizard@nwwater.com)



## This Issue

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## New Forest Park Water Videos!

We're excited to introduce new videos about our state-of-the-art Forest Park Water drinking water treatment facility! The videos are easy to find on our website and there are adult and child versions. Spend a few minutes and learn where your water comes from and all about our sophisticated water treatment processes!

## Water Conservation Tips

Because Pennsylvania's Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has issued a drought watch for our area, these simple tips for saving water might come in handy.

### *In The Bathroom*

- ◆ Install low consumption (1.6 gal/flush) toilets. This can save up to 14,000 gallons of water per year.
- ◆ Turn off the faucet while brushing your teeth or shaving.
- ◆ Install a low-flow showerhead.
- ◆ Take showers instead of baths.

### *In The Kitchen And Laundry Room*

- ◆ Run only full loads in the dishwasher and washing machines.
- ◆ Use a dishpan or plug the sink for washing and rinsing dishes.
- ◆ Install a low-flow aerator on all faucets.
- ◆ Do not pre-rinse dishes before loading in the dishwasher.
- ◆ Refrigerate a bottle of drinking water instead of letting the faucet flow until the water is cold enough to drink.
- ◆ Use the proper load-size selection on the washing machine.
- ◆ Instead of running water over fruits and vegetables to clean them, fill a bowl of water and use a brush.

### *Lawn, Garden And Outdoors*

- ◆ Water during the morning or in the evening to prevent evaporation during the heat of the day.
- ◆ Avoid watering the lawn on windy days.
- ◆ Use soaker hoses and trickle irrigation systems.
- ◆ Mulch around shrubs and garden plants to reduce evaporation.
- ◆ Plant drought-resistant plants.
- ◆ Use a broom, not a hose, to clean driveways, steps and sidewalks.
- ◆ Cover swimming pools to slow down the evaporation of water. This can reduce water loss by 30%.
- ◆ Repair any swimming pool leaks.



**Q:** You often remind us to call 8-1-1 before doing any digging on our property. What do all the different colored marks left behind mean?

**A:** Calling PA One Call or 8-1-1 before digging is important because knowing the location of buried utility lines helps to protect you and others from injury. This service is provided free to you by your local utilities.

Utility workers responding to PA One Call will mark the location of their lines using different colors of paint, to represent their particular utility. The colors and the utilities they represent are:

Red=electric power lines, cables conduit and lighting cables

Yellow=gas, oil, steam, petroleum or gaseous materials

Orange=communication, alarm or signal lines, cables or conduit

Blue=potable water

Purple=reclaimed water, irrigation or slurry lines

Green=sewer and drain lines

It is important that these marks remain visible and unaltered until all excavation in the area has been completed. Removing, moving or otherwise tampering with marks for underground utility lines can cause interruption of service for you and your neighbors and may result in costly repairs that could increase your monthly utility bills. It could also result in injury or even death to those in the immediate vicinity.

Tampering with these underground facility marks, even those on private property, is a violation of the Pennsylvania Utility Line Protection Act 287, as amended. Conviction can result in a fine of up to \$50,000, or imprisonment of up to 90 days, or both, not to speak of any civil liabilities in the matter. If you witness or suspect that someone has tampered with underground facility marks, please immediately call 8-1-1!

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