

# 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 - especially with the cold we experienced earlier this winter.

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.

## Many Ways to Pay Your Bill!

We offer five options for paying your water bill:

- *By mail.* Enclose your check and the stub from your bill in the envelope we provide. Please remember our payment address has changed to: NWWA, P. O. Box 95000-1138, Philadelphia PA 19195-1138.
- *In person.* Stop by with your check, cash or credit card anytime Monday - Thursday 8:00 - 5:30 or on Friday 8:00 - 4:00. Our office is at 200 W. Walnut St, North Wales, PA 19454.
- *By credit card.* You can call us at 215-699-4836 to pay over the phone with your Visa, Master Card or Discover credit card.
- *Pay online.* Visit our website at [nwwater.com](http://nwwater.com) and click on the green "Online Bill

Pay" button to create an account and pay. Please make sure your banking institution has our current payment address: NWWA, P. O. Box 95000-1138, Philadelphia, PA 19195-1138.

- *Sign up for our AutoFlow program* and your payment will automatically be deducted from your bank account. Call us or go online for more information and to sign up.

If you are experiencing financial difficulties, please let us know. We never want our customers to have their water turned off. Call our office to see if we may be able to make payment arrangements with you.



**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)



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

Keep your home and neighborhood protected and connected by knowing what's below and always calling 811 *before* you dig.

Pennsylvania law requires you to contact PA One Call at least three business days before you begin any excavation project so that utilities can mark the location of any of their underground facilities that might be in the area.

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 the 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.

**Call 811 Before You Dig**

## Water Conservation Tips

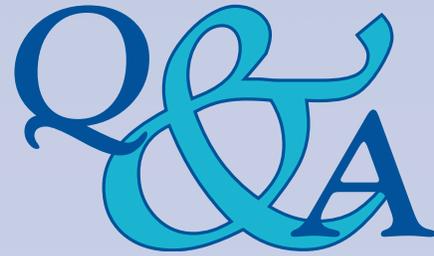
Are you a wise water consumer? How many of these water conservation tips do you practice?

### *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.



**Q:** *What are the health and safety concerns of contracting the flu from the public drinking water supply?*

**A:** Recent headlines have contained important warnings about an outbreak of influenza in the United States along with important tips to individuals who may be at risk. However, it is not possible to contract the flu virus through the drinking water supplies of the Authority.

Both the Centers for Disease Control and the World Health Organization indicate that the disease is most often spread through person-to-person transmission through coughing or sneezing. People may also become infected by contact with a contaminated surface.

Water that has been treated at our state-of-the-art Forest Park Water Treatment Plant or disinfected at any of our local groundwater sources does not pose a risk, even if the original source has come into contact with infected people or animals. Influenza viruses have been recognized by the medical community as being highly sensitive to disinfectants.

Additionally, we are required by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection to maintain a robust disinfectant residual throughout the water distribution system to counteract any real or potential contamination that could possibly occur.

This means that the treated water coming from the faucets in the homes, schools and businesses of our customers does not pose any risk of transmitting the flu and is always safe to drink.

**Water Rings is published Quarterly to Serve our Customers in:  
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New Britain, Upper Dublin, Upper Gwynedd, and Whitpain Townships.**