

# water rings

April - June 2010

Volume 5, No. 2

## 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 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.

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

## Sump Pumps & Downspouts

Did you know that your sump pump or downspout should not be connected to the sanitary sewer? You might think that adding "clean" water to the sanitary system is a help, but this inflow actually creates problems.

Inflow creates an extra water burden on the sanitary sewer system, and then when the system is overloaded (as happens during heavy rainfall), it can back up into our streets, buildings and potentially your basement. Inflow also creates

higher sewer bills because we are all paying for the unnecessary pumping and treatment of clear water.

Please check to make sure that your sump pump and downspouts are properly connected. If you need to make adjustments, remember to never direct water onto a street, alley, right of way, easement or neighboring property. Contact your municipality for specific direction.

## Tex Mex 5K Race for Open Space

Tex Mex 5K Race for Open Space celebrates its 21st year on Wednesday, June 23, 2010. This summer favorite 5K race begins and ends at the popular Tex Mex Connection Restaurant & Bar in North Wales Borough. Following the race, runners are treated to a festive dinner, complete with a cold beverage, live music and prizes in the restaurant's parking lot.

The Wissahickon Valley Watershed Association (WVWA), has received over \$151,500 as the prime beneficiary since 1999. WVWA protects the health and beauty of the Wissahickon Creek by protecting the open space that surrounds it.

*For more information visit:*  
[www.texmexconnection.com](http://www.texmexconnection.com) or [www.wvwa.org](http://www.wvwa.org)

## Payment Arrangements

We never want one of our customers to have their water shut off. If your family is experiencing difficult financial times we want to assist you if we can. We will be happy to discuss a payment

schedule that makes sense for you. Please contact us at 215-699-4836 or by email at [wizard@nwwater.com](mailto:wizard@nwwater.com) for more information.



**NWWA**

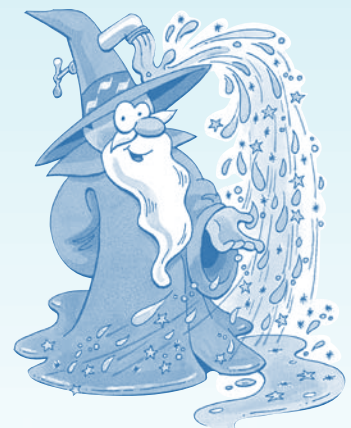
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## Simple Water Conservation Tips

### *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.
- ◆ Wash the car using a filled bucket, rather than letting the hose run.
- ◆ Make sure your hose has an automatic shut-off nozzle or one that can be adjusted to a fine spray.
- ◆ Cover swimming pools to slow down the vaporation of water. This can reduce water loss by 30%.
- ◆ Repair any swimming pool leaks.

*We'd like to share your success stories!* Do you have any conservation tips that you'd like to share with our readers? Please call us at 215-699-4836 or send them to us at [wizard@nwwater.com](mailto:wizard@nwwater.com). They might be featured in a future issue of Water Rings!



**Q:** *With warm weather coming, can lawn care impact local drinking water quality?*

**A:** The safety and fate of herbicides, pesticides, insecticides and fertilizers applied to residential lawns remains somewhat of a mystery. It seems to depend on whom one talks to: environmentalists, scientists, lawn care professionals or water providers as to what answer you will get.

The fact that enormous quantities of these products are being applied to lawns is beyond dispute. The key question is how much of these products are reaching local streams or leaching into groundwater supplies. Stream researchers are frequently detecting a wide variety of these components in both dry weather and storm runoff conditions from residential watershed areas.

The US-EPA estimates that over 70 million pounds of active pesticide ingredients alone are applied to lawns each year. Collectively, residential lawns cover over 30 million acres of our country's landscape. Homeowner surveys suggest that herbicides, pesticides, insecticides and fertilizers are regularly applied on roughly half of these acres.

The diversity of these treatments applied to lawns is staggering. Each individual compound differs greatly in its mobility through soil, persistence and potential aquatic impact. It is very difficult to ascertain the exact environmental risk each individual component of the treatment may pose.

While residents do show an increasing awareness about the links between lawn care and water quality, for many their primary objective still seems to be a sharp looking lawn. Monitoring drinking water supplies for these products remains a continuous process.

**Water Rings is published Quarterly to Serve Our Customers in:  
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