

water rings

July - September 2023

Volume 18, No. 3

Important Updates to the Lead and Copper Rule

The United States Environmental Protection Agency first introduced the Lead and Copper Rule in 1991. The Rule has recently been updated in an effort to further protect water utility customers from lead and copper exposure since the most common sources of lead in drinking water are lead pipes and brass or bronze faucets and fixtures.

While the Rule has been updated several times since its introduction, the recent updates will require us to partner even more closely with our customers to meet the new requirements. For example:

- NWWA will be required to compile a list of water service line materials within our distribution area with a special focus on lead and galvanized iron service lines. If there are any unknown service line materials, they will be treated as lead and/or galvanized until we can prove otherwise. This means there is an increased chance of having to physically check homes to determine their service line material. Homes that have lead and/or galvanized service lines will be added to our water sampling list in an attempt to collect results to determine the quality of the drinking water.
- Service lines that are lead and/or galvanized will be added to our service line replacement program.

The goal will be to remove and replace the dangerous service lines in a timely manner. This will ensure that the customer is receiving the best water quality possible.

NWWA is compiling service line material data from our distribution area. The list must be completed by October 2024. We will work closely with our customers to ensure that we remain in compliance with the new Lead and Copper Rule. This will also safeguard customers from lead and copper exposure in their household drinking water. This may involve a visit to your home to confirm your service line material.

If you would like to have an operator visit your home to verify your service line or if you have any questions or concerns, please contact your respective office:

NWWA Main Office North Wales, PA
Montgomery County Division:
215-699-4836

NWWA Bucks Office Warrington, PA
Bucks County Division:
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For more information, visit our website at <https://www.nwwater.com>.



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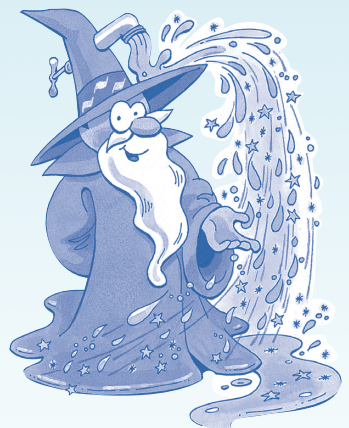
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Tips for Maintaining Water Quality in Your Home

Ensuring quality tap water is a responsibility that is shared by NWWA and its customers. We take great pride in delivering the finest quality water to your home. To maintain the high quality level once the water enters your home, be sure you develop a routine for flushing your hot water heater and cleaning out your faucet aerators.

Drain Your Hot Water Heater Annually

Your water heater may be one of the appliances in your home you take for granted—until it stops working and you wind up in a cold shower. Over time sediment, bacteria and metals can build up in your water heater tank, impacting water quality and minimizing household water pressure. By implementing an annual maintenance plan you could extend the life of your hot water heater, while ensuring water quality.

How often you should drain and flush your hot water heater depends on the number of people in your home. In general, the more you use your water heater, the more often it needs maintenance. Refer to the manufacturer's instructions that came with your water heater or consult with a qualified plumber.

Clean Out Faucet Aerators

Most faucets in the home have aerators at the tip. These are mini strainers that usually screw onto the faucet for the purpose of catching small sediment that may have entered the water from the hot water heater or the home's plumbing. They are also great money-saving devices because they reduce the amount of water used by lowering the flow rate.

It's important to regularly unscrew and rinse off the aerator to remove any particles that may have collected there. When you're no longer able to remove hardened deposits, the aerator should be replaced.



Q: *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 nearly 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 determine 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.