

# water rings

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## Annual System Flushing

"System flushing" is the phrase used to describe the routine procedure of operating valves and fire hydrants in the water distribution system in order to maintain the highest level of water quality.

This year, system flushing will be done between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday, beginning on March 26 and continuing through May 29. You will receive an automated call from our public notification system approximately one week before flushing is scheduled for your neighborhood. To hear the message repeated, you may call 877-699-2420.

This year's schedule is:

Montgomery and New Britain Townships - March 26 - May 18 (including Candlelight Farms, Parsons Lane, Meetinghouse Road, The Villages at Trewellyn, Gwynedd Knoll and Hunt Club sections of Lower Gwynedd Township)

Upper Dublin Township - March 26 - April 13 (including the Delaware Valley Industrial Park and Llewellyn, Annasmead, Baker and Llanfair

Road sections of Lower Gwynedd Township)

Whitpain Township - April 16 - May 1

Lower and Upper Gwynedd Townships & North Wales Borough - April 23 - May 29 (including Normandy Farms, Normandy Farms Estates, Windermere and Amberley Sections of Whitpain Township)

You may notice reduced pressure or cloudy water when flushing is being done in your area. This is expected and is not harmful. Simply let the **COLD** water run from your taps until it becomes clear.

If problems persist, please call 215-699-4836. We are available 24-7. Our Customer Service Representatives are available between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. on Friday. If you call after hours, your call will be taken by our answering service and you will be contacted by one of our on-call staff.

## Why Flush Hydrants?

Flushing is performed throughout the system to make certain that transmission and distribution pipelines are free from any impurities or sediment that may accumulate over the course of time. System flushing is just one of many tools the Authority uses to ensure that water quality remains at the highest level and each customer always receives safe, healthy drinking water exceeding all regulatory requirements.

The flushing process the Authority incorporates is referred to as "unidirectional flushing." This means that we start at the water source, or tank, and work outward into the distribution system. Valves are manipulated to reverse the pattern of normal flow, disinfection residuals are raised in the area and water is flowed from the hydrants at an increased velocity.

This ensures that the inside of the piping is scoured and any foreign matter is safely flushed away. Flushing is also performed to clean newly installed water mains and after main breaks or repairs are completed.

One interesting facet to system flushing is that, under the regulations of the Pennsylvania Clean Streams Laws, the Authority cannot release water with a disinfectant residual into the environment. Therefore, water released during the flushing operation is directed through special diffusers that introduce vitamin C into the waste flow. The vitamin C neutralizes the disinfectant residual making it safe to discharge into storm sewers, culverts and any receiving natural water way. In this way, we are stewards of the environment we all share.



# NWWA

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## Unregulated Contaminants Monitoring

Under the 1996 amendments to the federal Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA), the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (US-EPA) is required once every five years to issue a new list of up to 30 unregulated contaminants for which some public water systems must monitor. The Authority has participated in all previous rounds of this special monitoring and will be part of the fourth round, also known as the Unregulated Contaminants Monitoring Rule 4, or UCMR 4. Monitoring will start in 2018 and continue until the end of 2020.

The US-EPA developed a Contaminant Candidate List (CCL) which is the primary source of constituents considered for UCMR 4 monitoring. The CCL is a list of contaminants that are currently not addressed by national primary drinking water regulations, are known or anticipated to occur in public water systems and may warrant future regulation. The UCMR 4 contaminants were selected using a prioritization process that identified contaminants not previously monitored; may have significant occurrence nationally; and have a validated drinking water analysis method. The next step focused on contaminants associated with one or more of the following considerations: an available health assessment to facilitate regulatory determinations; high public concern; critical health endpoints and active use in the environment. Finally, EPA considered workgroup and stakeholder input and further evaluated health, occurrence and persistence data to finalize the list of 30 contaminants for this round of monitoring.

In accordance with the SDWA, regulators will consider the data from UCMR 4 and other sources, along with peer reviewed health effects assessments, to support a determination on whether to initiate the process to develop a national primary drinking water regulation. It is important to realize that the presence of a particular compound does not necessarily equate to a health risk as the concentration of a compound is a far more important factor in determining whether there are health implications.

The Authority's participation in the UCMR 4 monitoring will help advance the science of drinking water both nationally and regionally. The North Wales Water Authority is committed to protecting the health and safety of our customers and exceeds all state and federal SDWA standards for the drinking water we provide. Please contact the Authority if you have further questions regarding this monitoring program.



### **Q:** How do I determine if I have a lead water service line in my home?

**A:** If your home was built prior to 1950 and has not had the water service line replaced, you should determine whether you have a lead service line. The service line is the pipe that connects your household plumbing to the water main in the street. Lead service lines are generally a dull gray color and are very soft. They can be identified easily by carefully scratching them with a key or coin. If the pipe is made of lead, the area you've scratched will turn a bright silver color. Do not use a knife or other sharp instrument and take care not to puncture a hole in the pipe. Please note that galvanized piping can also be dull gray in color. A strong magnet will typically cling to galvanized pipes, but will not cling to lead pipes. Lead service lines can be connected to the residential plumbing using solder. They have a characteristic solder "bulb" at the end or a compression fitting or other connector made of galvanized iron or brass/bronze. A licensed plumber would be able to inspect the service line and make the determination for you.

If your home has a lead service line, it is likely that other sources of lead exist in the home as well. Community health departments may offer free or low-cost lead assessments of the home to help homeowners identify and mitigate all sources of lead. If your service line cannot be accessed to determine whether it contains lead, you may opt to have your water tested by a certified laboratory.

According to the Pennsylvania Department of Health, the primary source of childhood lead poisoning in Pennsylvania continues to be exposure to aging, deteriorating lead-based paint (chips and dust), and not drinking water. If your home was built before 1978, it's possible it could have lead-containing paint. Lead can also be found in some jewelry, makeup, toys and dishware.