

water rings

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Water Meter Updates

To collect water meter readings the Authority uses Automatic Meter Reading (AMR) technology. Using AMR benefits customers by improving the accuracy of the bill, providing early leak detection, eliminating the need to estimate water bills and eliminating the need for a water meter reader to visit your premises to read the meter. This saves the Authority thousands of dollars each year, which in turn saves you money.

An AMR system consists of your water meter and a Meter Transmitter Unit (MXU). The water meter is installed inside your home, while the MXU is attached to one of your exterior walls. In order to read your meter, a NWWA vehicle with a radio transmitter drives past your house and sends out a special radio signal to the MXU. This unit then radios back your meter reading to the computer inside our vehicle. The data is later transferred to our computerized billing system.

The Authority is currently upgrading the MXUs in our system as part of our on-going infrastructure maintenance program. This means there is no charge to you for this upgrade. The new units come with advanced

technology that will one day allow for meter readings from our office. This capability will in the future allow for multiple readings per day, resulting in improved customer service through quick and accurate replies to inquiries, faster resolution of billing disputes and real time operation and maintenance reports.

Because the units are on the outside of your home and to minimize customer disruptions, we are not scheduling the replacements ahead of time. As a courtesy, we will knock on your door before beginning work.

Only NWWA employees will be switching out the units. All employees have a NWWA employee badge and will be wearing an Authority uniform and driving an Authority vehicle.

It's possible that not all units in your neighborhood will be replaced at the same time. Work is being scheduled based on the age of the MXUs and the need to replace a unit in order to maintain accurate billing records.

Swimming Pool Safety

Now that summer is here, private and public pool owners, as well as pool management companies, should remember that pool and chlorinated wastewater must be handled responsibly.

Old water must be disposed of properly and wastewater containing chemicals such as chlorine and muriatic acid should be neutralized.

Where allowed, the wastewater should go into the sanitary sewer - not into storm sewers. If sanitary sewers cannot be accessed, the wastewater should be hauled off-site for disposal at an approved treatment facility.

When chlorinated water is drained from a swimming pool into a storm sewer, it quickly makes its way to a stream or other body of water, where aquatic life is damaged or killed. Discharging swimming pool water to Pennsylvania's waters without a permit violates the Clean Streams Law, and property owners and pool companies who violate this law may be prosecuted and penalized for damages.

To view or print a copy the PA Swimming Pool Wastewater Guidelines, visit:
www.nwwater.com/go/pool

Also, be sure to contact your local municipality regarding potential local ordinances.



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Rain Barrels - A Benefit to Your Bottom Line and the Environment



Did you know that during the summer months the average homeowner uses 40 percent of their household water in the yard? This may lead to a beautiful yard, but it also means that a lot of treated drinking water is wasted. Rain barrels are a perfect way to save by collecting and recycling rainwater while at the same time keeping excess water out of the sewer system.

Rain barrels are large plastic or wooden containers that you connect to your roof gutter downspout. Rain barrels vary in size from 50-250 gallons and can range in price from \$75 to \$350. To find rain barrels, inquire at your local home and garden supply store, garden center, nursery or hardware store. On the Internet you can find free instructions for building your own barrel. To maximize the benefits of rain barrels you can put one at each downspout or even link two or more together as shown in the above picture. Rain barrels have a spigot located near the bottom to fill your watering can or to connect a soaker hose.

Don't forget to protect your barrel from mosquitos!

- 1) Use a closed system. Instead of an open topped rain barrel, consider using a rain barrel with a downspout diverter.
- 2) Use regularly and drain often. Mosquitoes cannot breed in flowing water, only stagnant water.
- 3) Use one tablespoon of liquid dishsoap once a week or after each storm. The soap creates a film on the surface of the water, breaking the surface tension. Therefore, if mosquitoes make it into the barrel to lay their eggs, they drown before they get a chance. Use ecofriendly liquid soap to prevent additional pollution and prevent damage to your plants if you use your harvested water for irrigation.
- 4) Use mosquito dunks. These are very simple to use. They are available at most online retailers and big box hardware stores.
- 5) Add cooking or vegetable oil to the barrel. A quarter of a cup of oil will be sufficient in the average sized rain barrel. The oil floats on top and does not allow the mosquitoes to breed and will suffocate any larvae.



Q: *In a previous edition of Water Rings there was a reference to "Unregulated Contaminants." Can you explain what these are?*

A: As part of the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) the U.S Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is required to create a list every five years of up to 30 unregulated contaminants to be monitored in the nation's public drinking water supplies. The EPA uses the Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR) program to collect occurrence data for constituents that may be present in tap water, but do not have health-based standards set under the SDWA.

To obtain the 30 contaminants that are currently being monitored, the EPA initially considered 7,500 potential chemical and microbial contaminants. This broad universe of potential drinking water contaminants was then refined by the National Academies of Science, National Research Council and the National Drinking Water Advisory Council, along with the EPA. Input from the public and the drinking water industry was also considered.

Round 4 of UCMR monitoring has started and will continue into 2020. The Authority is conducting monitoring throughout the distribution system, groundwater sources and the Forest Park Water Treatment Plant. The current list of contaminants includes cyanotoxins, pesticides, disinfection byproducts, manufacturing byproducts, alcohols and semivolatle organic chemicals.

A complete overview of the UCMR program can be viewed at <http://water.epa/drink>.

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