

# water rings

April - June 2015

Volume 10, No. 2

## Checking for Leaks This Spring

Due to the extremely cold temperatures and duration of below freezing temperatures over the winter months, it will be especially important to check for leaks this spring.

You should check hose bibs, garden hoses, underground sprinkler systems, and all water pipes that were exposed to the elements - even if you've never had a problem in prior years.

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 to pay your water bill:

- **By mail.** Enclose your check and the stub from your bill in the envelope we provide. Our mailing address is: P. O. Box 1339, North Wales PA 19454.
- **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.

- **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

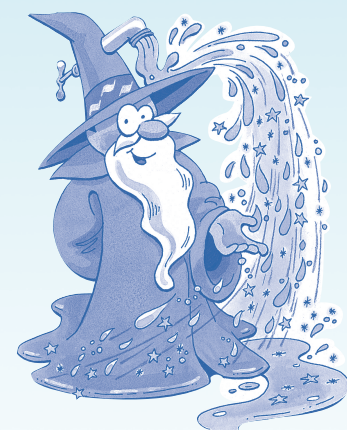
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## This Issue

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**Colored Markings 2**  
**Q & A - How To Avoid Microbeads**



Water Rings is printed on 100% recycled paper using soy-based ink.

## 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.

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

## Buried Utility Lines

Once you have called to have your utility lines marked, utility workers will respond and mark the location of their lines using different colors of paint to represent their particular utility.

Red = electric power lines, cables conduit and lighting cables

Yellow = gas, oil, steam, petroleum or gaseous materials

Orange = communication, alarm or signal lines, cables or conduit

Blue = potable water

Purple = reclaimed water, irrigation or slurry lines

Green = sewers and drain lines

It is important that these marks remain visible and unaltered until all excavation in the area has been completed. Removing, moving or otherwise tampering with marks for underground utility lines can cause interruption of service to you and your neighbors and may result in costly repairs that could increase your monthly utility bills. It could also result in injury or even death to those in the immediate vicinity.



**Q:** *In reference to the Q & A section in the last Water Rings, could you provide a list of the specific products containing microbeads? We would like to avoid purchasing any of those products.*

**A:** It doesn't seem possible that brushing your teeth or using an exfoliating face or body wash would be an act of pollution, but there are well over 1,000 products on the market which contain tiny, polyethylene or polypropylene microbeads.

It is becoming evident that people simply don't like washing their face or body with plastic. A recent study found that there can be up to 360,000 of these plastic beads in one tube of your typical facial wash. Hardly visible to the naked eye, these tiny objects flow straight from bathroom drains through the sewer systems and into the environment.

As a consumer, you have a great deal of power. By choosing products that are free of microplastics, you will not only stem the tide of microbeads into the environment but will also be voting with your wallet and sending a clear message to manufacturers that you want to see an end to this pointless pollution.

To list all the products containing microbeads in this publication would be impossible. However, we can list some of the best resources where these listings can be found. Among them are:

[www.onepercentfortheplanet.org](http://www.onepercentfortheplanet.org)

[www.beatthemicrobead.org](http://www.beatthemicrobead.org)

[www.ecowatch.com](http://www.ecowatch.com)

[www.5gyres.org](http://www.5gyres.org)

Additionally, for those on the go, you can download a free 'Beat the Microbead' smartphone app. This app allows shoppers to scan a product's barcode to check whether it contains plastic microbeads.

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