

# water rings

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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.



We are fortunate to live in a part of the country where rainfall is plentiful, so rain barrels are a perfect way for you to save some money 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 picture at left.

Rain barrels have a spigot located near the bottom so that it's easy to fill your watering can. You can also connect a soaker hose to the spigot to water the shallow rooted plants in your yard.

Watering with rainwater will make your garden happy since rainwater is soft and free of dissolved minerals. This water is also great for indoor plants or even washing your car. If you already use a rain barrel, we'd love to hear your success stories and see your pictures. Email us at [wizard@nwwater.com](mailto:wizard@nwwater.com).

## Forest Park Transmission Main Extension

We're growing! Starting later this Fall, we'll begin an 18-month project that will add 10 miles of water main from our Forest Park Water treatment plant in Chalfont Borough. The new main will extend from Chalfont through New Britain Borough into Warrington Township. When complete, we'll be able to pump an additional 10 million gallons of water per day from Forest Park.

This new water main will make supplemental water supplies available to many neighboring communities, while enhancing fire protection capabilities throughout the region.

In the long-term, this expansion will lead to the stabilization of water rates for all our customers.

In September we will kick off a special website dedicated to the project. The site will include all of the most current details - maps of where the work is taking place, work hours, any related detours, etc. We'll formally introduce the new website in our Fall issue of Water Rings, as well as on our website and Facebook page.

Watch for more details over the next few months!



North Wales Water Authority

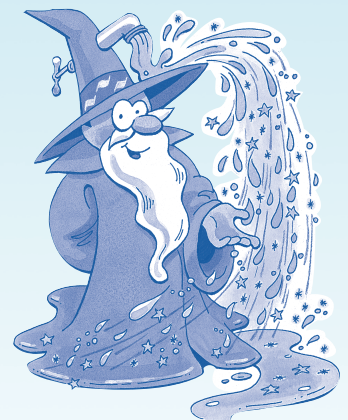
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## Know What's Below. Call Before You Dig.

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*

## Your Water Quality Guardian

Our primary goal at NWWA is to provide the finest quality water to our customers and all of our employees are committed to doing their part to make that happen. But we have one specific employee whose job is to oversee everyone's efforts to make sure we are achieving our goal.

Tom Bradbury, our Director of Water Quality, works behind the scenes every day, overseeing a complex data tracking system which monitors over 5,000 individual water samples every year. He oversees a complete battery of tests that includes online real-time monitoring along with routine daily, weekly, and monthly testing.

Tom also stays on top of regulatory trends and makes sure that our water collection and distribution systems are in compliance with all local, state and federal regulations.

Have questions about your water? Tom is the person you will speak to if you call our office with water quality questions or concerns. His 22 years of experience at the Authority means there aren't many situations or problems that he hasn't encountered and solved.



**Q:** *Is it true that the bathroom is where over half of household water usage takes place?*

**A:** Approximately 60% of household water usage happens in the bathroom. As such, updating old leaky fixtures and changing a few basic habits can go a long way to not only saving water, but also money.

Undoubtedly, the toilet is the biggest water hog in the bathroom. Older model toilets can use up to 7 or 8 gallons of water per flush, up to 5 times what modern toilets use. It is a good idea to replace older model toilets if you can.

Plumbing leaks are another source of wasted water. Again, toilets are the major culprit. The Authority has dye tablets available for testing, or you can use regular food coloring. Test your toilets by putting 5-10 drops of food coloring into the tank, then put the cover back on but do not flush. Check back in 10-15 minutes to see if any of the colored water has leaked from the tank into the bowl. If so, you have a water-wasting leak and it is time to repair or replace that aging toilet. Replacing an older toilet with an ultra-low volume (ULV) flush model can represent a 70% saving in water flushed and cut total indoor water usage by about 30%.

The shower can also be problematic as a water-waster, especially if your shower head was manufactured before new water-saving regulations went into effect. New, low-flow shower heads are relatively cheap and a good investment as you can save water and energy with every ensuing shower. Even with a new shower head, a moderately short shower can still use between 20 to 30 gallons of water.

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