



# WATER RINGS

## Water: A Valuable Resource

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On February 12, 2002, Pennsylvania State Governor Mark Schweiker signed a proclamation declaring a drought emergency for both Montgomery and Bucks counties, as well as most of the State.

The precipitation history for the North Wales area, indicates that we are six inches below our average rainfall. Regionally, it varies from six inches to thirteen inches below average, depending on location.

The North Wales Water Authority derives 85% of our water from the Delaware River and 15% from ground water sources. We are confident that our water supply is adequate to supply our customers through this drought period however, we are asking customers to conserve where they can.

Water is a valuable and unique commodity, yet through the years it has been used without logic or understanding of its true worth. People have treated water as though the supply is endless and its worth, marginal. It is only when weather conditions, such as those we have experienced over the last few months, lead to the varying stages of drought and initiate the restrictions of water use is there much cause for concern.

A key aspect of the Authority's mission is to educate our customers in understanding the real value of the water that we supply. The Authority realizes that a sustained commitment to environmental stewardship requires a well-informed public. This being accomplished in many ways through the Authority's water resource education programs. These programs explore how environmental education, conservation and awareness can better prepare tomorrow's citizens to be informed stewards of our most precious natural resource.

The Authority recognizes that we have the skills and means to understand the economics, technologies and applications which can ensure our customers an abundant supply of excellent quality water for the future.

For water conservation ideas and drought information, please visit our website at [www.nwwater.com](http://www.nwwater.com).

Other sources include:

- [www.state.nj.us/drbc](http://www.state.nj.us/drbc)
- [www.dep.state.pa.us](http://www.dep.state.pa.us)
- [www.pa.water.usgs.gov](http://www.pa.water.usgs.gov)



## YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED

**Question:** *We would like to reduce our water bills, but we don't like the idea of water-flow restrictors. Can you provide us with any advice?*

**Answer:** Low-flow showerheads and aerators can save a considerable amount of money, both in water use and in energy needed to heat water. Newer components can cut water consumption for showering by 30% while still providing a strong spray. Aerators on faucets also can save you money without noticeably reducing water pressure or flow.

If you have an older showerhead it is probably delivering five or six gallons of water, or more, per minute. Current models are designed to meet new government water conservation standards of less than half that amount. Keeping this in mind, it would also be beneficial for you to replace older toilets with newer, low-flush models for additional savings.

Buying a low-flow showerhead will give you both energy and water savings that can pay back their cost in about three or four months. Pass up lower-quality, cheaper model showerheads to avoid the weak spray that you are afraid of and won't be satisfied with.

The biggest water savings can be from stopping even the smallest leak in your plumbing system. If any of your fixtures, appliances or toilets are leaking, fix them immediately. The smallest drips can add up to big water waste, compounded by wasted energy if hot water is leaking.

## MXU Replacement

As you probably know, the North Wales Water Authority's meter reading program is automated through a radio-read system. We are currently in the process of replacing some units throughout our system. These units will be replaced by both North Wales Water Authority personnel and an outside contractor, Authority Maintenance Company.

This replacement only requires a change on the outside of your home and we do not need access to the inside of your home.

All Authority employees carry identification, as do the employees of Authority Maintenance Company. If you need to verify identification, please do not hesitate to call the Authority office at 215-699-4836.

## Temporary Summer Employment

The North Wales Water Authority is currently accepting applications for temporary summer employment. Duties performed will include working in our outside maintenance area.

To apply, please contact our human resource department at 215-699-4836 or stop by our office for an application.

## Water Conservation Tips

- Check toilets for leaks.
- Take shorter showers.
- Use your washing machine for full loads only.
- Don't leave the water running while brushing your teeth.
- Check faucets and piping for wasteful leaks.
- Use your dishwasher for full loads only and set it to the short cycle.

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.