



# WATER RINGS

## Water - An Important Part of our Daily Lives

### IN THIS ISSUE:

1. Water - An Important Part of our Daily Lives
2. Did You Wash Your Hands?
3. Water Pollution Control in PA
4. Your Questions Answered



North Wales Water Authority  
P.O. Box 1339  
200 West Walnut Street  
North Wales, PA 19454-0339  
(215) 699-4836  
www.nwwater.com  
email: wizard@nwwater.com

During the course of your day, do you ever look back and think, wow, I used quite a bit of water today? If you are like most Americans, the answer to that question is probably no. The average American uses more than 100 gallons of water per day. Just imagine 100 one gallon plastic jugs: that is a lot of water.

Let's go through the course of a typical American day and the many different ways we use water.

It all begins when you start your day. You wake up, flush the commode (7 gallons), brush your teeth (3 gallons), take a 10 minute shower (70 gallons), make a cup of coffee or tea (1 gallon), throw a load of laundry in the washing machine (40 gallons) and run the dishwasher (12 gallons). So, you are up to a total of 133 gallons of water and you have not even left the house yet. And so your day continues and so does your use and perhaps abuse of water.

Water is a very valuable and unique commodity, yet over 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.

The general population assumes that plentiful water supplies are the norm, when in fact, occasional droughts of at least moderate intensity and duration are inevitable.

In early May of this year we actually experienced 23 days without any precipitation, lawns started turning brown and flowers began to wilt. Then the rains came, restoring lawns and perking up flowerbeds. But we all must realize that water is still a very important commodity and that we all must do our part to conserve the water that we use everyday.

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. We are accomplishing that through water resource education programs such as the Clean Stream Program, involvement in local watershed associations, community events, our website and the numerous publications that we distribute.

The next time you turn on your faucet, think twice.

## YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED

**Question:** *How can I avoid receiving extra charges on my water bill.*

**Answer:**

The number one action you can take to eliminate any additional charges on your water bill is to pay your bill on time.

If you simply forget to pay your bill or never seem to have time to write out checks, we offer our AutoFlow program. AutoFlow is our automatic payment withdrawal program. We can deduct your water bill amount from either your savings or checking account, whichever one you prefer. It is simple to sign-up. Call our customer service department at 215-699-4836 or visit us on line at [www.nwwater.com](http://www.nwwater.com) for an application.

The North Wales Water Authority is here to assist you. We understand that at times our customers may have situations that require some financial assistance with their water bill. We will gladly set up a payment plan that is convenient for you. Simply call our office to make arrangements. By doing so, you can avoid penalties and an escalated bill.

An unpaid water bill for \$50, can grow into a \$100 water bill with service charges and penalties. This can be avoided if you simply pay your bill on time or call us to make payment arrangements.

## Did You Wash Your Hands?

Washing your hands can be the best preventative medicine practice you can do to prevent the spread of infectious diseases.

Hand washing recommendation: a vigorous soaping of 10 to 15 seconds in warm to hot water followed by a thorough water rinse before and after any contact with body secretions, mucous membranes or blood.

If water is not available, hand sanitizer or baby wipes are the next best thing.

The Center for Disease Control estimates that over 90% of viruses are transferred from one person to another by hands.

To stay healthy and help others stay healthy, wash your hands properly and often.

## Water Pollution Control in PA

Water pollution in Pennsylvania can be attributed to many sources and is separated into two categories: **point and nonpoint sources**. Pollutants that enter a body of water from a specific distinguishable point are called **point sources**. Examples include sewage, industrial waste and storm sewer discharges.

The less obvious causes of water pollution are those that do not discharge at a specific point, but enter the water indirectly. This is termed **nonpoint source pollution**. Nonpoint source pollution is becoming an increasing problem since it is difficult to control. Nonpoint sources include polluted groundwater, storm water and

agricultural runoff. In these examples, rain water runs over the land carrying pollutants into bodies of water.

The largest source of water pollution in Pennsylvania is acid mine drainage. Water flowing through abandoned coal mines reacts with sulfur-bearing materials in the presence of air to form sulfuric acid. The acidified water eventually makes its way to streams or rivers, and accounts for over 40 percent of the pollution affecting Pennsylvania river systems.

The second largest source of water pollution is agricultural runoff, including excess manure, soil erosion, pesticides and fertilizers.

For more information, visit the DEP website at [www.dept.state.pa.us](http://www.dept.state.pa.us).

**Visit us on-line at [nwwater.com](http://nwwater.com)**

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.**