

water rings

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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.

How to Identify a NWWA Employee

Sometimes it is necessary for one of our employees to make a service call to your home or business. More often than not, one of our Customer Service Representatives would have contacted you beforehand so that you would be expecting us. But in any case, you can be sure that North Wales Water Authority employees are always easy to identify.

In almost all cases, employees travel in clearly marked Authority vehicles. The majority of our trucks are white and have North Wales Water Authority and our logo printed on them.

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 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.

All of our inspection, metering and service crew employees would be in uniform and would be wearing a shirt with the NWWA logo on it.

All employees also carry official NWWA - issued photo identification cards. If there's ever a question, ask to see their employee ID.

If you're still not sure or feel uncomfortable, please call our office at 215-699-4836 to verify that an employee is in your area.



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This Issue

Spring Leak Check 1
NWWA Employees

We Need You!
Call 811 2
Q & A - Does the New Lead Law Affect You?



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

Be Our Eyes and Ears!

Help us keep your water safe! We have over 2,300 fire hydrants located throughout our 50-square mile service area in Bucks and Montgomery Counties. Fire hydrants are there for the safety of you and your family.

As the temperatures rise and winter turns to spring, contractors, landscapers and pool fillers might be tempted to use a fire hydrant for their purposes. Unauthorized use of a fire hydrant is prohibited because of the possibility for contamination of the water supply and damage to the hydrant.

If you see anyone other than a fire company or one of our employees accessing one of our fire hydrants, please call us immediately at 215-699-4836.

Know What's Below. Call Before You Dig.

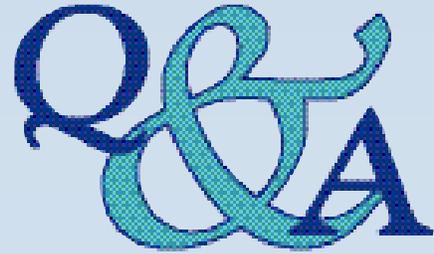
Keep your home and neighborhood protected and connected by knowing what's below and always calling 811 *before* you dig.

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*



Q: *How does the new Federal Lead Law affect me and my family?*

A: Starting in January, 2014, the "Reduction in Lead in Drinking Water Act" set a new federal standard for the level of permissible lead in plumbing fixtures that are used to transport water for human consumption. The Act changes the previously-allowable level of up to 8% as an average content to less than 0.25%.

The new bill aligns allowable lead levels in all 50 states. This Act does not prohibit the use of components containing more than 0.25% lead; it is the average wetted surface that must contain less than 0.25% lead. The law does not apply to components related to fire protection, irrigation, heating systems and many other non-potable uses.

Since you and your plumber are primarily tasked with maintaining water quality in your home or business setting, you should be mindful of the new law and its potential impacts on your family or employees. From having fixtures replaced to conducting a major renovation to your home, communicate with your plumbing contractor to understand how selected lead-based components were chosen and that they are compliant with the new regulations. If you are the do-it-yourselfer, carefully read all pertinent information before selecting plumbing components to be sure of compliance.

As a public drinking water supplier, NWWA conducts mandatory lead monitoring as required by both the state and federal Safe Drinking Water Acts. Naturally occurring levels of lead have never been detected in the Authority's source water or distribution system. Additional information about lead in drinking water can be obtained at:

<http://water.epa.gov/drink/info/lead/index.cfm>

**Water Rings is published Quarterly to Serve our Customers in:
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