

water rings

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Lead Undetected in NWWA Monitoring

At North Wales Water Authority, we are committed to providing a reliable supply of safe drinking water to our 27,000+ customers in Montgomery and Bucks counties. With the recent attention on risks associated with lead in water, we want to remind our customers that their tap water is safe.

The Authority regularly monitors for lead in conjunction with the Federal Lead and Copper Rule administered by the state of Pennsylvania. Lead has never been detected at any of the monitored sources, the distribution system or in the homes of customers. We invite you to review our annual Water Quality Reports on our website (<http://bit.ly/1ONzaUR>).

For over 20 years, the primary water source for our distribution system has been the Delaware River. The water is then purified at our Forest Park Water treatment facility in Chalfont, PA. An unchanging water source means fewer adjustments are needed during the water purification process, resulting in consistent, safe water. Orthophosphate, an anti-corrosive chemical, is routinely added to create a protective barrier on the water pipes and prevent materials from leaching into the water.

Lead exposure in drinking water does not come from treatment plants and water mains, it typically comes from plumbing fixtures in a home or from a water service line. We encourage you to inspect the internal plumbing in your home to determine if lead piping is present. A licensed plumber can check for lead solders in your internal pipes, look for fixtures containing lead and determine if you have a lead service line.

Tips for protecting you and your family from exposure to lead in tap water:

- Run the cold water tap to flush out lead. This is especially important if the water hasn't been used for several hours. Let the tap run until the water becomes cold. This flushes out any stagnant water in your home plumbing and replaces it with fresh water from the water main in the street.
- Use cold water for cooking and preparing baby formula. Because lead dissolves more easily in hot water, do not cook, drink or mix baby formula with hot tap water.
- Routinely clean faucet aerators. Sediment and metals can collect in the aerator located at the tip of your faucets. Replace aerators that are in poor condition. Aerators are available at local hardware stores.
- Test your water for lead. Pennsylvania's Department of Environmental Protection offers a list of accredited laboratories - <http://bit.ly/1nidB51>. Click "continue to external website" for the list.

According to Pennsylvania's Department of Health, the primary source of childhood lead poisoning in Pennsylvania is a result of exposure to deteriorating lead-based paint; not drinking water. If your home was built before 1978, it's possible it could have lead-containing paint. For more information, visit the Department's website for Healthy Homes and Lead Poisoning Prevention FAQ's (<http://bit.ly/1RHGT8b>).

If you have questions, we welcome your call at 215-699-4836.



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This Issue

**Lead & Copper Rule 1
Monitoring**

**Sprinkler Spruce Up 2
Q & A - What are
PFOAs?**



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Time To Tune Up Your Home's Irrigation System!

Homes with automatically-timed irrigation systems use about 50 percent more water outdoors than those without irrigation systems. Your system can waste even more if it's programmed incorrectly, a sprinkler head is pointed in the wrong direction, or you have a leak.

Simple Tips for Sprucing Up Your Sprinkler

When it comes to a home's irrigation system, a little maintenance goes a long way. A home with an automatic irrigation system that isn't properly programmed or maintained can waste as much as 30,000 gallons of water annually. A broken or missing sprinkler head could waste as much as 25,000 gallons of water and more than \$90 over a six-month irrigation season.



Spruce up your irrigation system by remembering four simple steps—inspect, connect, direct, and select.

Inspect. Check your system for clogged, broken or missing sprinkler heads. If you're not the do-it-yourself type, go with a pro - look for an irrigation professional certified through a WaterSense labeled program.

Connect. Examine points where the sprinkler heads connect to pipes or hoses. If water pools in your landscape or you have large wet areas, you could have a leak in your system. A leak about as small as the tip of a ballpoint pen (or 1/32nd of an inch) can waste about 6,300 gallons of water per month.

Direct. Are you watering the driveway, house, or sidewalk instead of your yard? Redirect sprinklers to apply water only to the landscape.

Select. An improperly programmed irrigation controller can waste water and money. Update your system's watering schedule with the seasons, or select a WaterSense labeled controller to take the guesswork out of scheduling.

You can save even more water outdoors by incorporating water-smart landscaping principles into your landscape design. And you can find more tips by visiting the WaterSense website at www.epa.gov/watersense/outdoor.



Q: I have read some alarming articles about PFOAs in drinking water recently. Are they being monitored?

A: PFOAs are one of many chemicals that are known as Perfluorinated Compounds (PFCs). Although not currently regulated in drinking water, the Authority has monitored for the following PFC's and reported the results to both the US Environmental Protection Agency (US-EPA) and the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PA-DEP). This group includes:

Perfluorooctanoic Acid (PFOA),
Perfluorooctanesulfonic Acid (PFOS),
Perfluorononanoic Acid (PFNA),
Perfluorohexanesulfonic Acid (PFHxS),
Perfluoroheptanoic Acid (PFHpA)
Perfluorobutanesulfonic Acid (PFBS)

The Authority has never had a detection of these compounds in any of our groundwater or surface water sources and we will continue to monitor at the regulatory agencies request.

PFCs are man-made compounds and not naturally found in the environment. They have been used for many years in a variety of products such as firefighting foams, coating additives, cleaning products and lubricants. Many consumer products that are used on a daily basis contain PFCs, such as the coating on microwave popcorn and food bags, fast food containers and wrappers, non-stick cookware, plastic food storage containers, cosmetics, personal care products, Scotchguard, Gore Tex and Teflon, along with a myriad of other consumer goods.

These unregulated compounds are not included on either the US-EPA's or PA-DEP's Safe Drinking Water Act Primary or Secondary listing of contaminants. There is, however, a US-EPA Health Advisory Level that was established to ensure protection of the public following short-term exposure in drinking water.

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