

# water rings

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## Best Water Rates in the Region!

We're proud to announce that an independent water rate study, recently released by Schwenksville Borough Authority, has confirmed that North Wales Water Authority water customers continue to enjoy the lowest rates charged anywhere in our region!

The report, dated April 26, 2021, includes a comparison of water rates currently charged by 34 regional providers, based upon an average consumption of 5,000 gallons per month. Based upon this "apples to apples" analysis, water costs ranged from a high of \$100.00 per month to a low of \$23.00 per month, which happens to be the NWWA rate!

Another interesting fact noted in the study is the great disparity between privately-owned ("for-profit") water systems versus publicly owned and operated systems – such as the NWWA. The report confirms that the highest water rates charged are by privately-owned companies. This disparity is significant - over 400% higher than the NWWA.

According to Robert C. Bender, NWWA Executive Director, "The NWWA has managed to keep the lowest water rates in our region by employing good business practices throughout all of our operations." He went on to explain, "The NWWA has a long standing policy of careful and well planned growth in slowly adding new customers to our system. This has allowed us to capture the inherent economies of scale in both purchasing and operations. We have also continued to train our staff to constantly improve our efficiencies and competence

in operating the system. And finally, we have continued to seek ways to reduce our costs by public bidding, participation in consortium purchasing programs, and by refinancing all debt service whenever lower interest rates are available to save our customers money."

Bender went on to point out that the lowest rates do not equate to lower quality, noting that the NWWA Forest Park Water Treatment Plant has been awarded numerous State and National Awards for excellence – including the prestigious AWWA 5-Year President's Award. This achievement indicates that the facility, jointly owned and operated by the NWWA and North Penn Water Authority, is in the top echelon of all water treatment plants in the entire country.

You can learn more about the Forest Park Water treatment facility and its treatment processes by visiting our web site at [www.nwwater.com/go/fpw](http://www.nwwater.com/go/fpw). To view the water rate table and chart from the Schwenksville Borough Authority study, visit the Press Releases section of News/Events on our website.

While noting that a modest rate increase will eventually be needed, Bender pointed out that after over 25 years of offering the lowest rates while maintaining a record of providing high quality water, it is clear that the NWWA intends to continue as one of the best water providers, anywhere.



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## We Now Accept PayPal!

You've been asking for it and we're happy to announce that we now accept PayPal for online bill payments. This new option includes all the PayPal branded options - PayPal, PayPal Credit, PayPal Pay in 4, or Venmo.

To make a payment using PayPal, simply visit <https://link.nwwater.com>. You'll be able to access the PayPal option whether you register for online payment or select the one time payment option. But why not register? You'll have access to your account history, be able to schedule payments, pay your bill no matter where you are, and avoid the hassle of buying stamps.

The screenshot shows a payment interface with three tabs: 'Payment Options', 'Payment Information', and 'Review Payment'. The 'Payment Options' tab is active. Below the tabs, the question 'How would you like to pay?' is displayed. Underneath, there is a section titled 'Available Payment Methods' with a dropdown menu currently showing 'Visa ending in 2477'. At the bottom of the interface, there are logos for various payment methods: eCHECK, VISA, DISCOVER, American Express, PayPal, PayPal CREDIT, and G Pay.

## Swimming Pool Safety

Now that summer is here, private and public pool owners, as well as pool management companies, should remember that pool and chlorinated wastewater must be handled responsibly.

Old water must be disposed of properly and wastewater containing chemicals such as chlorine and muriatic acid should be neutralized. Where allowed, the wastewater should go into the sanitary sewer - not into storm sewers. If sanitary sewers cannot be accessed, the wastewater should be hauled off-site for disposal at an approved treatment facility.

Discharging swimming pool water to Pennsylvania's waters without a permit violates the Clean Streams Law, and property owners and pool companies who violate this law may be prosecuted and penalized for damages. To view or print a copy the PA Swimming Pool Wastewater Guidelines, visit: [www.nwwater.com/go/pool](http://www.nwwater.com/go/pool). Also, be sure to contact your local municipality regarding potential local ordinances.



## Q: Can lawn care impact local drinking water quality?

**A:** The safety and fate of herbicides, pesticides, insecticides and fertilizers applied to residential lawns remains somewhat of a mystery. It seems to depend on whom one talks to: environmentalists, scientists, lawn care professionals or water providers as to what answer you will get.

The fact that enormous quantities of these products are being applied to lawns is beyond dispute. The key question is how much of these products are reaching local streams or leaching into groundwater supplies. Stream researchers are frequently detecting a wide variety of these components in both dry weather and storm runoff conditions from residential watershed areas.

The US-EPA estimates that nearly 70 million pounds of active pesticide ingredients alone are applied to lawns each year. Collectively, residential lawns cover over 30 million acres of our country's landscape. Homeowner surveys suggest that herbicides, pesticides, insecticides and fertilizers are regularly applied on roughly half of these acres.

The diversity of these treatments applied to lawns is staggering. Each individual compound differs greatly in its mobility through soil, persistence and potential aquatic impact. It is very difficult to determine the exact environmental risk each individual component of the treatment may pose.

While residents do show an increasing awareness about the links between lawn care and water quality, for many their primary objective still seems to be a sharp looking lawn. Monitoring drinking water supplies for these products remains a continuous process.

**Water Rings is published Quarterly to Serve our Customers in:  
North Wales Borough and Buckingham, Doylestown, Horsham, Lower Gwynedd,  
Montgomery, New Britain, Solebury, Upper Dublin, Upper Gwynedd,  
Warminster, Warrington and Whitpain Townships.**