

# waterings

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## Household Water Use: What's Considered Average?

Water consumption in the United States is among the highest in the world. According to statistics gathered by the American Water Works Association (AWWA), per capita water use in the United States is about twice as high as that in Europe.

But what does that mean for the average person? The AWWA calculates that the average American uses 69.3 gallons of water indoors per day. In Pennsylvania, the Department of Environmental Protection considers 62 gallons per person to be average for daily consumption. Bringing the estimate even more local, we estimate an average daily residential use of 71 gallons for customers of the North Wales Water Authority.

How is that water used in an average home? You might be surprised to learn that it's not for drinking or cooking. The single biggest use of water in the home is for flushing toilets, followed closely by water used in clothes washers and in baths and showers.

By simply installing more efficient water fixtures and regularly checking for leaks, the average American household can reduce their daily water use by as much as 35% to about 45.2 gallons per day. This would save a staggering 5.4 billion gallons of water nationwide per day. In dollars this could mean \$11.3 million saved per day or more than \$4 billion per year.

The water you receive from NWWA is one of the best deals going. While only a fraction of the water delivered to your home is actually consumed, all water is treated as if it will be consumed. Still, as a NWWA customer you pay less than one cent per gallon for your tap water.

Now, let's imagine how it would look if the charges for your tap water were equivalent to what is charged for bottled water. According to the National Resources Defense Council, it costs from 240 to over 10,000 times more per gallon to purchase bottled water than it does to purchase a gallon of average tap water.

*Tap Water - Clearly the Best Choice!!*

## 2006 Water Quality Reports Now Available

In May and June 2007, copies of the North Wales Water Authority's 2006 Water Quality Report were mailed and hand-delivered to all North Wales Water Authority retail customers. The annual report is provided to customers in compliance with the Safe Drinking Water Act.

The report includes important information about your drinking water. It includes details about where your water comes from, what it contains and how it compares with the standards mandated by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection.



We are proud to report that in 2006 the water delivered to our customers met, and in most cases, greatly exceeded all current federal and state regulatory requirements.

Copies of the Water Quality Report are available online in the Resources and Literature section at [www.nwwater.com](http://www.nwwater.com).

Or you may call our office at 215-699-4836 to request a copy.



### NWWA

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## Get to Know Us - NWWA's Distribution Team

There are over 394 miles of water pipelines or mains spread over a 50 square mile area in the North Wales Water Authority transmission and distribution system. This vast network of mains is maintained by a staff of 11 dedicated professionals. This team of seasoned experts has approximately 155 years of combined experience in the water utility industry.

All members of our Distribution Team are licensed Water Works Operators and participate in ongoing training and education as part of the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection's Operator Certification Program. Continuing education ensures they keep pace with advances in health, safety, science and technology.

Team members are responsible for everything related to water system maintenance, including ensuring water quality and an adequate water supply. You might have seen our crews on the roads, installing, repairing or replacing water mains, water services, and fire hydrants.

You can help keep our employees safe by slowing down and keeping alert in NWWA work zones. NWWA designates its work zones with signs, cones, flag holders and other traffic control devices in accordance with Pennsylvania Department of Transportation regulations.



**Q:** *I thought the Authority tested for a lot of things in the water. Why does it appear there are very few results in your recent Water Quality Report?*

**A:** Every community water system in the United States is required by law to provide each direct and indirect consumer with a complete water quality report, also known as a Consumer Confidence Report (CCR). This annual report lists any regulated or non-regulated contaminants detected during routine monitoring from the beginning of the treatment process and throughout the entire water distribution system.

Although the Authority is directed by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection to routinely monitor and report on over ninety (90) regulated contaminants in the water we supply, guidelines for the CCR require that only those constituents that were actually detected and have a legitimate value be publicized.

When the CCR ruling was originally initiated the Authority did list the results for all tests performed. The CCR was quite large and contained many more tables than it does today. After a few years we were informed that the tables were too confusing for our customers because the majority of the test results either had a zero value or were "non-detectable."

For a complete listing of all regulated and non-regulated contaminants and their values, please refer to the Water Quality section of the Authority's website at [www.nwwater.com/go/quality](http://www.nwwater.com/go/quality).

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