

water rings

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Leaks - The Silent Thief

An undetected water leak is like a thief, robbing you of money and peace of mind. According to the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), leaks can account for as much as 10,000 gallons of water wasted in an average home every year. This is enough to fill a backyard swimming pool!

The good news is that most leaks are easy to fix. Common types of leaks include leaking toilet flappers, dripping faucets, and other leaking valves. In most cases, replacement parts are inexpensive and can be installed by do-it-yourselfers. You may save more than 10 percent on your water bills by fixing these common leaks.

The winter months are a good time to check for leaks and examine your winter water usage. It's likely that a family of four has a serious leak problem if its winter water use exceeds 12,000 gallons per month. Check your water meter before and after a two-hour period when no water is being used. If the meter does not read exactly the same, you probably have a leak.

When replacing showerheads, faucets and toilets, consider WaterSense® labeled products. These products have met EPA's rigorous criteria for water efficiency and performance.

Winterizing Tips

During the cold weather months, there are simple things you can do to help prevent frozen pipes and leaks in your home.

- Fit exposed pipes with insulation sleeves or wrapping to slow heat loss.
- Seal cracks and holes in outside walls and foundations near water pipes with caulking.
- Keep a slow trickle of water flowing through faucets connected to pipes that run through an unheated or unprotected space.
- Remove all hoses from outside faucets and



shut them off from the inside. Leave the fixtures open to drain.

- Secure and drain all underground lawn sprinkler systems.
- If you plan to be away for an extended time during the winter months, it is very important to maintain minimum temperatures in your home to prevent freezing of the interior plumbing fixtures.

Remember, your indoor plumbing is your responsibility. Protecting your pipes saves water and money!

Automatic Bill Payment

Did you know that you can have your water bill payment automatically withdrawn from your bank account?

Simply sign up for our **AutoFlow** program and you won't have to worry about missing your water bill payment again.

Signing up is simple. First, download the application from our website at: www.nwwater.com/go/autoflow. You may also

call our office at 215-699-4836 to request a copy. Mail the completed application, along with a cancelled check or savings account deposit slip to us and we will notify you when you have been set up.

You will still receive notification when your bill is due, letting you know when your payment will be withdrawn. Five days notice (prior to the drafting date) is all we need to discontinue your participation in the program.



NWWA

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Check Writing Refresher

According to the most current statistics from the Federal Reserve, aggregate U.S. check volume has declined 33 percent from 1995 to 2006. That means many of us don't get much practice writing checks anymore.

Filling your checks out properly protects you by making sure the correct amount of money is taken from your account and that the correct person or company is paid. In the case of your water service, a properly written check also helps to ensure that your water service will not be interrupted.

There are five simple steps to filling out a check. Follow along using the sample check below.

NWWA Customer 1234 Some Street Cityville, PA 00001	23-567-1234	1234
	DATE	<u>Oct. 23, 2010</u>
PAY TO THE ORDER OF	<u>North Wales Water Authority</u>	\$ 153.35
	<u>One hundred fifty-three and 35/100</u> -----	DOLLARS
Bank Inc. Placetown, PA 00001		
FOR	<u>Account # 00000000</u>	<u>Your Signature</u>
⑆ 0 1 204 50 78 ⑆ 1 10 2 ⑆ 1 20 ⑆ 0 1 204 50 ⑆		

1. Fill in the date. You should always include the month, date and 4-digit year. Be sure to use the current date. NWWA will not accept a check written with a future date.
2. Write in the name of who you are paying. In our case, you could make the check out to NWWA or North Wales Water Authority.
3. Under the line on which you wrote the payee, write out in words the amount of money you are paying. After the dollar amount write "and" then the cents are written as a fraction of 100. See the example above. In the box to the right, enter the amount you are paying in numbers. It is important that these two numbers match exactly.
4. Enter your account number on the line at the lower left hand side. This will help to ensure that your payment gets properly applied to your account.
5. Finally, be sure to sign your check with your full name. An unsigned check is like no check at all. We will return unsigned checks to the sender and any scheduled penalty and/or late fees will still apply.

If you have questions or need additional help, check with your bank or financial institution.



Q: *How much water does an average person use each day?*

A: Total per capita water usage varies depending on location, season of the year and what types of water consuming appliances are used in the home. The US average is nearly 70 gallons per person used each day. Of this, the amount people actually consume is less than 2%, and can vary widely among individuals.

Because of other uses in the community, water suppliers pump much more water than is used in households. A recent national study of water suppliers showed that to supply water needed for all uses, the average amount of water pumped daily was 180 gallons per person.

In the home, toilet flushing is by far the largest single use of water. Toilets can use anywhere from 1.6 to 6 gallons of water for each flush. On the other hand, a dishwasher uses about 50% less water than the amount used when you wash and rinse dishes by hand.

Without counting lawn watering, typical percentages of household water use are as follows:

- Toilet flushing – 26.7%
- Laundry – 20.2%
- Showers and baths – 18.5%
- Running faucets – 11.7%
- Leaks – 9.7%
- Dishwashing – 6%
- Cooking and drinking – 5%
- Other domestic uses – 2.2%

By installing more efficient fixtures, regularly checking for leaks and turning off water when brushing teeth or shaving, etc., households can reduce daily per-capita water use by approximately 30%.

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