

water rings

April - June 2013

Volume 8, No. 2

Annual System Flushing

“System flushing” is the phrase used to describe the routine procedure of operating valves and fire hydrants in the water distribution system in order to maintain the highest level of water quality.

This year, system flushing will be done between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday, beginning on March 25 and continuing through June 7. You will receive an automated call from our public notification system approximately one week before flushing is scheduled for your neighborhood. To hear the message repeated, you may call 877-699-2420.

This year’s schedule is:

Montgomery and New Britain Townships - March 25 - May 24 (including Candlelight Farms, Parsons Lane, Meetinghouse Road, The Villages at Trewellyn, Gwynedd Knoll and Hunt Club sections of Lower Gwynedd Township)

Upper Dublin Township - March 25 - April 9 (including the Delaware Valley Industrial Park

and Llewellyn, Annasmead, Baker and Llanfair Road sections of Lower Gwynedd Township)

Whitpain Township - April 15 - April 23

Lower and Upper Gwynedd Townships & North Wales Borough - April 22 - June 7 (including Normandy Farms, Normandy Farms Estates, Windermere and Amberley Sections of Whitpain Township)

You may notice reduced pressure or cloudy water when flushing is being done in your area. This is expected and is not harmful. Simply let the **COLD** water run from your taps until it becomes clear.

If problems persist, please call 215-699-4836. Our Customer Service Representatives are available between 8:00 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. on Friday. If you call after hours, your call will be taken by our answering service and you will be contacted by one of our on-call staff.

Know What’s Below. Call Before You Dig.

Keep your home and neighborhood protected and connected by knowing what’s below and always calling PA One Call at 8-1-1 (or 1-800-242-1776) **before** you dig.

If you plan to disturb the earth with powered equipment, you are required by Pennsylvania law to notify the underground utility companies of your intent. PA One Call is a free service that notifies the nearby utility companies for you. The utilities will then come out and mark the location of the underground lines before you dig.

Why is this important? 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 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.

Do you need a reminder? Send us an email at wizard@nwwater.com and we’ll send you a **FREE** PA One Call key fob! Be sure to include your full name and mailing address!

**Safe Digging Is No Accident:
Always Call 811 Before You Dig**



NWVA

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Is a Rain Barrel or Rain Garden Right for You?

Rain barrels and rain gardens benefit the environment by reducing the amount of stormwater that flows across the landscape into our waterways and storm sewers. This reduces water pollution because stormwater runoff can contain pollutants like sediment, oil, grease, bacteria, and nutrients. This is important because pollution can kill fish in your favorite fishing spot, dirty your favorite swimming hole and ruin the source of your drinking water.

Rain Barrels

A rain barrel is a waterproof container that sits under the downspout of your roof, collecting and storing rainwater before it flows into a storm sewer or local waterway.

A rain barrel will save the average homeowner about 1,300 gallons of water during the peak summer months. Rain barrels are an excellent source of “soft water” since the rain contains no calcium, lime or chlorine. This makes it ideal for gardens, flower pots and even window and car washing.

Ready-made rain barrels can be purchased from hardware stores and garden centers, but it is relatively simple and less expensive to make one yourself.

For more information, including resources for making your own barrel, visit our website, click on Conservation and look for the Rain Barrels tab.

Rain Gardens

A rain garden is defined as a landscaped area that has been planted with wildflowers and other native vegetation, that soaks up rain water, mainly from the roof of a building or a low area that captures runoff. It is NOT a swampy area in your yard that doesn't drain (a breeding ground for mosquitos) or a seasonal pond.

Lawns have shallow root systems and don't absorb excess water. Up to 80% of rain water can run off your lawn, depending on the density of your turf.

Rain gardens provide many benefits. They create a wildlife habitat and attract birds, butterflies and other wildlife. They also reduce your lawn maintenance through less mowing and fertilizing.

To learn more about planning a rain garden, native plants to use and where to purchase them, visit our website, click on Conservation and look for the Rain Gardens tab.



Q: *Why is flushing necessary and what actually happens to enhance water quality?*

A: Flushing is performed throughout the system to make certain that transmission and distribution pipelines are free from any impurities or sediment that may accumulate over the course of time. System flushing is just one of many tools the Authority uses to ensure that water quality remains at the highest level and each customer always receives safe, healthy drinking water exceeding all regulatory requirements.

The flushing process the Authority incorporates is referred to as “unidirectional flushing.” This means that we start at the water source, or tank, and work outward into the distribution system. Valves are manipulated to reverse the pattern of normal flow, disinfection residuals are raised in the area and water is flowed from the hydrants at an increased velocity. This ensures that the inside of the piping is scoured and any foreign matter is safely flushed away. Flushing is also performed to clean newly installed water mains and after main breaks or repairs are completed.

One interesting facet to system flushing is that the Authority cannot release water with a disinfectant residual into the environment. Under the regulations of the Pennsylvania Clean Streams Laws, chlorinated water is classified as a pollutant and may cause damage and in-stream impacts to aquatic life. Water released during the flushing operation is directed through special diffusers that introduce vitamin C into the waste flow. The vitamin C neutralizes the residual making it safe to discharge into storm sewers, culverts and any receiving natural water way. In this way, we are stewards of the environment we all share.

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