

waterrings

January - March 2020

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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 30 and continuing through May 29. 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 30 - May 22 (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 30 - April 17 (including the Delaware Valley Industrial Park

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

Whitpain Township - April 20 - May 7

Lower and Upper Gwynedd Townships & North Wales Borough - April 27 - May 29 (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. We are available 24-7. Our Customer Service Representatives are available between 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Monday through 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.

Why Flush Hydrants?

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, under the regulations of the Pennsylvania Clean Streams Laws, the Authority cannot release water with a disinfectant residual into the environment. Therefore, water released during the flushing operation is directed through special diffusers that introduce vitamin C into the waste flow. The vitamin C neutralizes the disinfectant 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.



NWWA

North Wales Water Authority

PO Box 1339
200 West Walnut Street
North Wales, PA 19454-0339
215-699-4836
www.nwwater.com
wizard@nwwater.com



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Leaks Waste Water!

Drips per minute	Water wasted per day (gallons)	Water wasted per month (gallons)	Water wasted per year (gallons)
5	0.75	22	263
10	1.5	43	526
20	2.9	86	1,051
30	4.3	130	1,577
40	5.8	173	2,103
50	7.2	216	2,628
60	8.6	259	3,154
70	10.1	302	3,679
80	11.5	346	4,205
90	13.0	389	4,731
100	14.4	432	5,256

Payment Arrangements

We never want one of our customers to have their water shut off. If your family is experiencing difficult financial times we want to assist you if we can. We will be happy to discuss a payment schedule that makes sense for you. Please contact us at 215-699-4836 or by email at wizard@nwwater.com for more information.

Kids Zone - A Complete Water Education Resource

Did you know there's a section of our website that is completely devoted to water education from a kid's perspective? It's called Kids Zone and is found at www.nwwater.com/go/kids.

Kids of all ages will find fun games, online coloring pages, interactive lessons, and even a variety of projects and experiments that can be done at home. For teachers there is a section of hands-on classroom experiments for grades K - 12.

The water utility industry offers many career opportunities, ranging from engineers and scientists to environmental educators and regulatory staff to customer service representatives and field workers who install and maintain water main. To help children plan their career path, a complete list of opportunities is also found in the Careers in the Water Industry section of the Kids Zone.



Q: *Is it true that the bathroom is where over half of household water usage takes place?*

A: Approximately 60% of household water usage happens in the bathroom. As such, updating old leaky fixtures and changing a few basic habits can go a long way to not only saving water, but also money.

Undoubtedly, the toilet is the biggest water hog in the bathroom. Older model toilets can use up to 7 or 8 gallons of water per flush, up to 5 times what modern toilets use. It is a good idea to replace older model toilets if you can.

Plumbing leaks are another source of wasted water. Again, toilets are the major culprit. The Authority has dye tablets available for testing, or you can use regular food coloring. Test your toilets by putting 5-10 drops of food coloring into the tank, then put the cover back on but do not flush. Check back in 10-15 minutes to see if any of the colored water has leaked from the tank into the bowl. If so, you have a water-wasting leak and it is time to repair or replace that aging toilet. Replacing an older toilet with an ultra-low volume (ULV) flush model can represent a 70% saving in water flushed and cut total indoor water usage by about 30%.

The shower can also be problematic as a water-waster, especially if your shower head was manufactured before new water-saving regulations went into effect. New, low-flow shower heads are relatively cheap and a good investment as you can save water and energy with every ensuing shower. Even with a new shower head, a moderately short shower can still use between 20 to 30 gallons of water.

**Water Rings is published quarterly to serve our customers in:
North Wales Borough and Doylestown, Horsham, Lower Gwynedd,
Montgomery, New Britain, Upper Dublin, Upper Gwynedd,
Warminster, Warrington and Whitpain Townships.**